NO. 7 JULY 32870 35¢

SHADE THE CHANGING man

12¢

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE *BATTLE* FOR *THE META-ZONE* RAGES ON--AS *SHADE* LIES *TRAPPED* WITHIN--

"THE COLOR COMA!"

0 70989 32870 07

TO ALL WHO WANT POWERFUL MUSCLES FAST!

I WANT TO SEND YOU MY FREE MUSCLE BUILDING LESSON WITH MY COMPLIMENTS

Yes, I will rush you (absolutely FREE) LESSON ONE of the startling new OLYMPIC MUSCLEBUILDERS home-study Body-Building Course.

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That's right! A whole new world of Strength, Energy and Rippling MusclePower can be yours! I'll teach you the "Progressive - Power Method" which involves no special apparatus whatsoever.

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"My muscles just got bigger and bigger. All due to OLYMPIC MUSCLEBUILDERS. I cannot thank you enough." Jeff Williams, Wa.

"The OLYMPIC MUSCLEBUILDERS course gave me a new life of muscles, strength and fitness. Thanks." Rick Dayton, Brooklyn, N.Y.

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FREE! lesson 1

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AFTER

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Mac Ray	Killeen, Texas
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NECK	13.5
CHEST	37.5
WAIST	26.5
THIGHS	19.0
CALVES	13.0
UPPER ARM	13.5
FOREARM	10.7
AFTER	
Mac Ray	Killeen, Texas
	Weight 158
NECK	15.0
CHEST	43.0
WAIST	27.5
THIGHS	22.0
CALVES	14.7
UPPER ARM	15.3
FOREARM	12.0

$2 $2

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☐ Yes! Rush my FREE **OLYMPIC MUSCLEBUILDERS** lesson that I can use right now at home to build a handsome body. I'm enclosing 50c for handling and mailing charges. No obligation of course!

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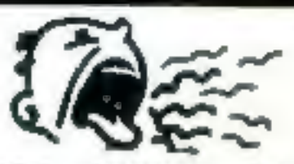

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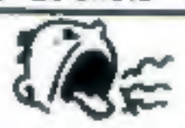

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"MONEY MAKER" is sensational! Insert a blank piece of paper into the machine, turn the knob . and, from the opposite side, PRESTO! OUT COMES A REAL DOLLAR BILL! Insert a one dollar bill and it changes to a $5.00 bill, or $10.00 No skill required. Lots of fun and mystery.
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☐ No. 119 $1.49 Each
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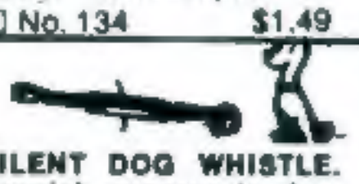

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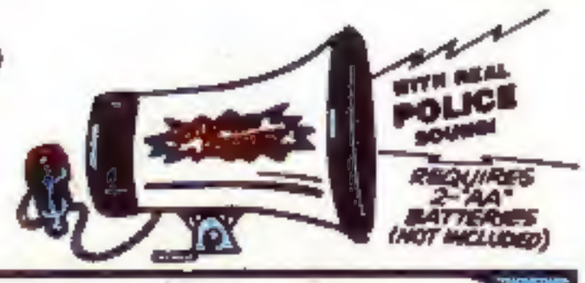
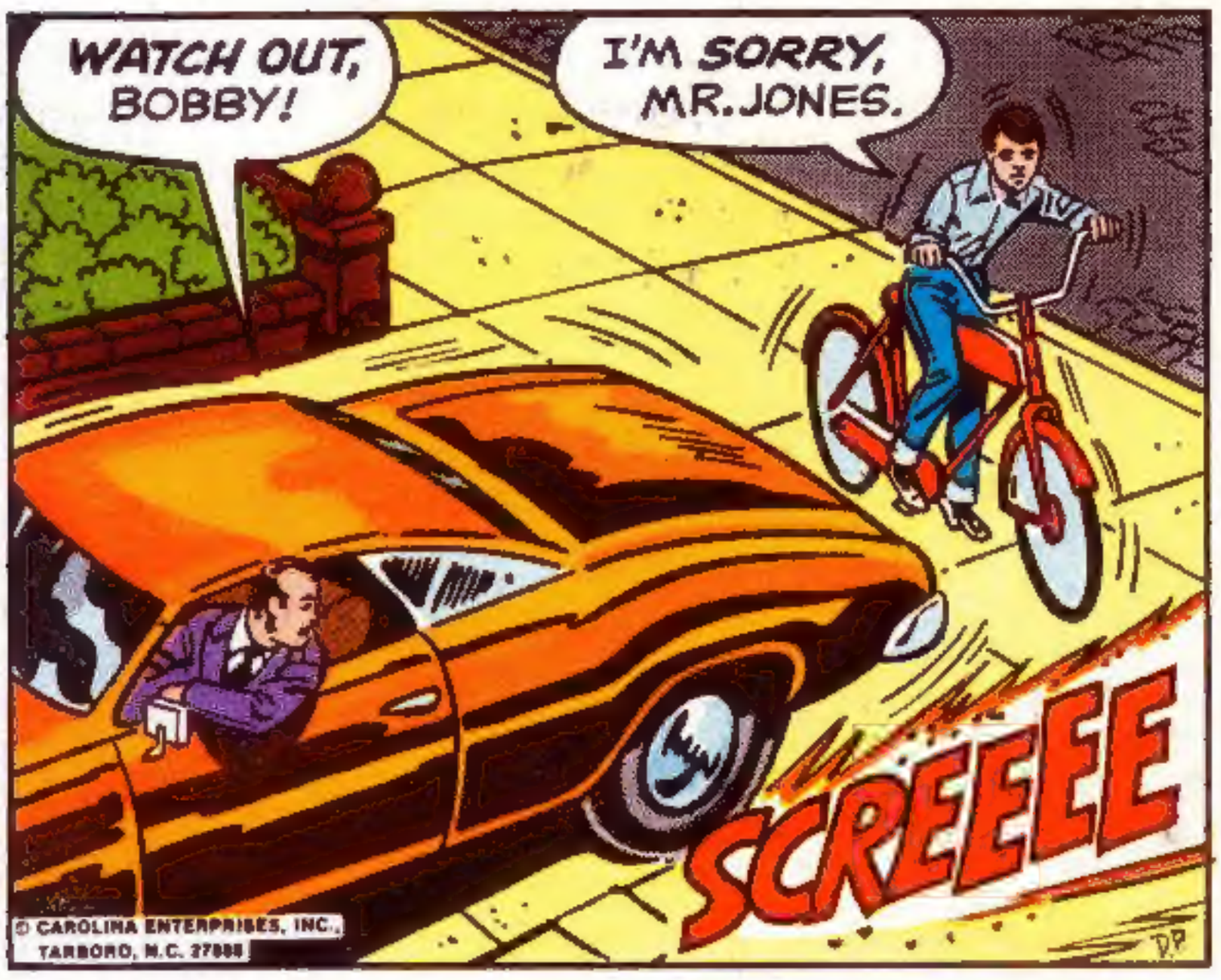
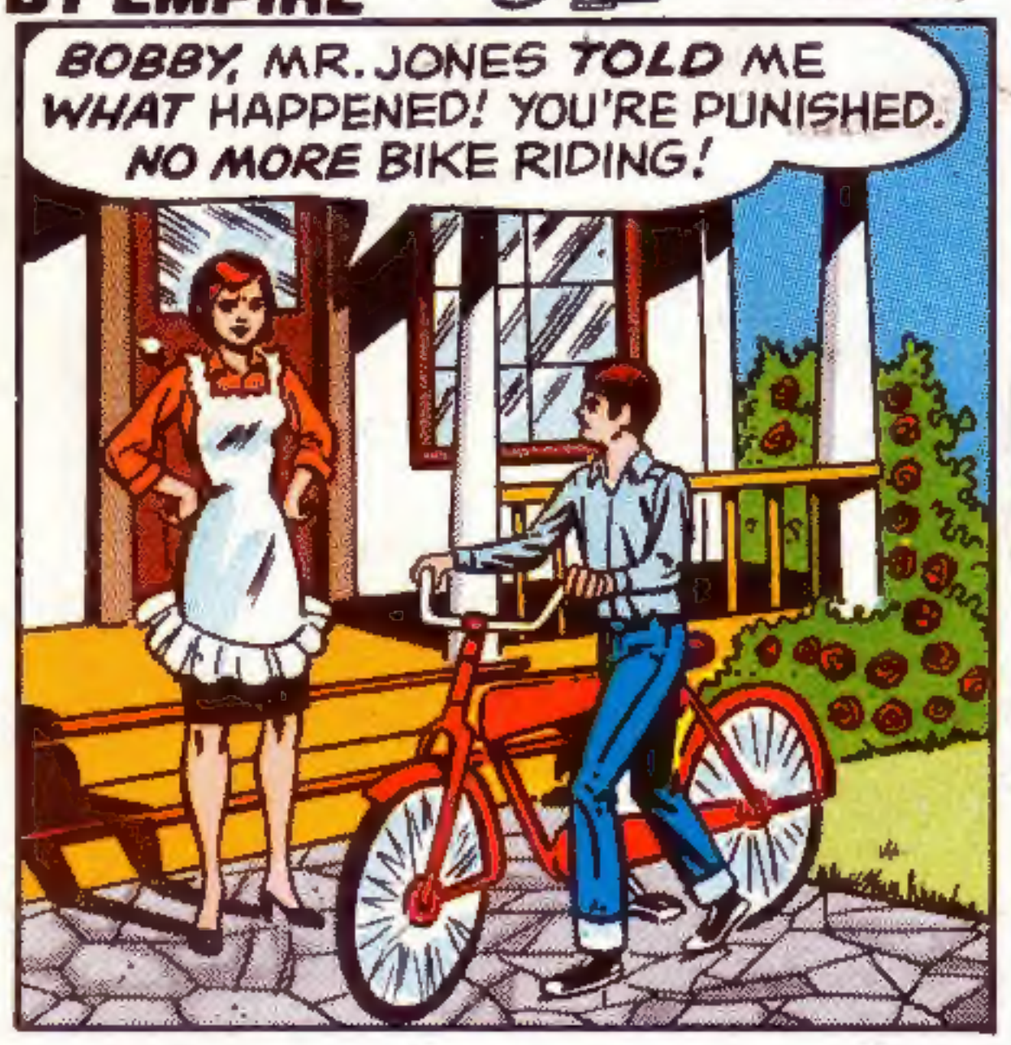
BY EMPIRE

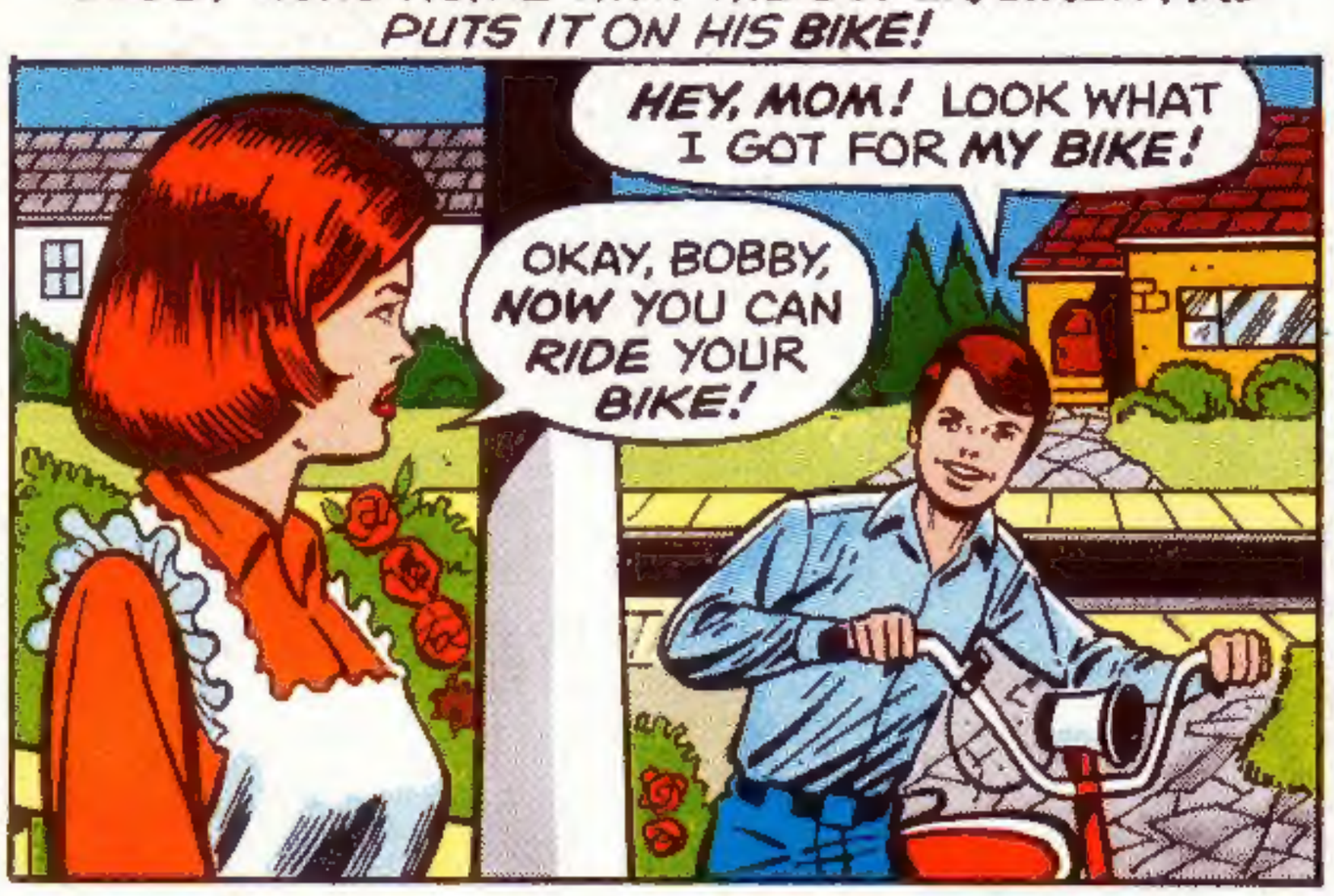


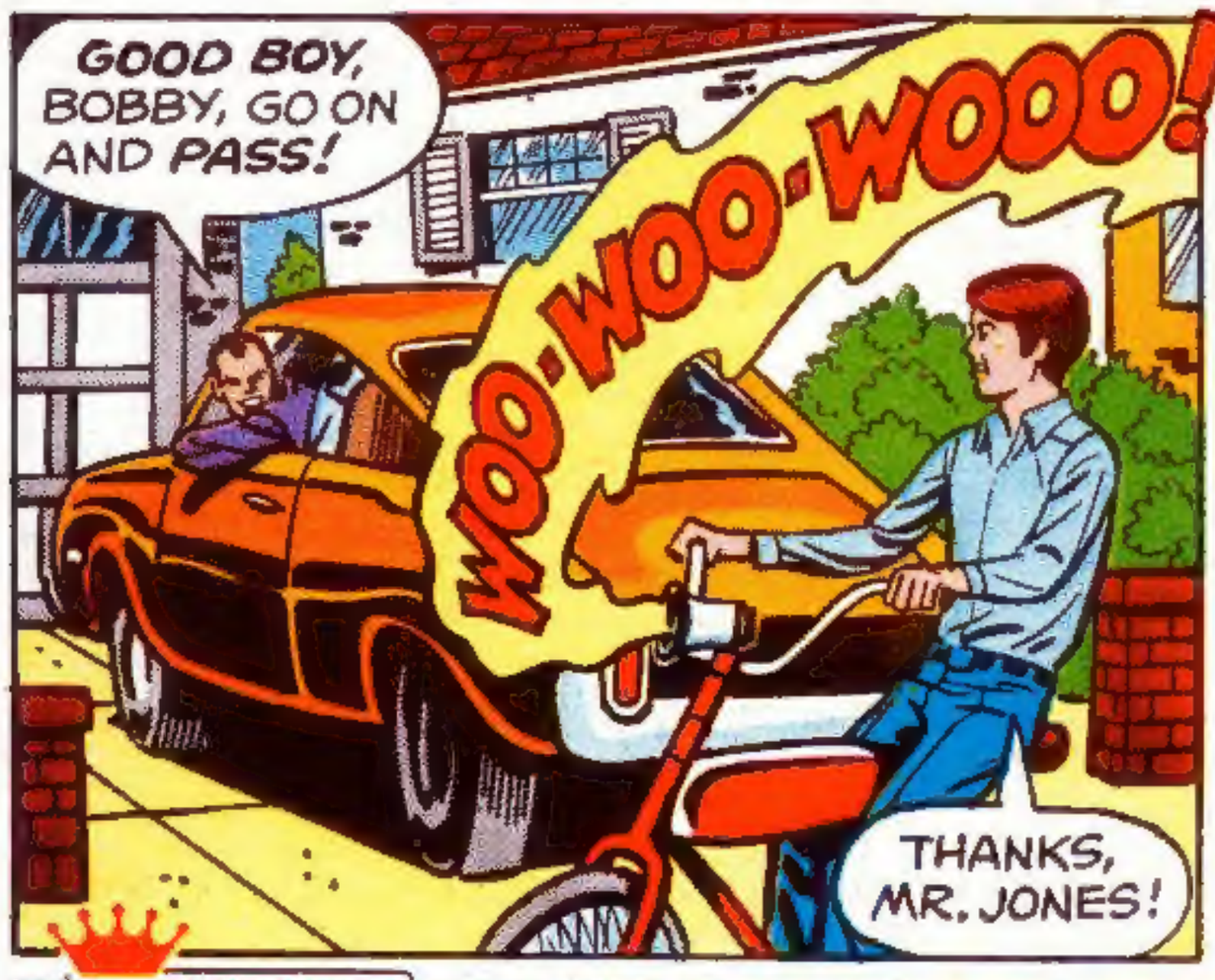


BOBBY FEELING BADLY, IS NOW OUT WALKING AND...



BOBBY RUNS HOME WITH THE SUPER SIREN AND PUTS IT ON HIS BIKE!





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SHADE THE CHANGING MAN in The COLOR COMA!

CONCEPT AND ART BY: STEVE DITKO / DIALOGUE BY: MICHAEL FLEISHER / EDITING BY: JACK C. HARRIS / LETTERING BY: BEN ODA / COLORING BY: JERRY SERPE

INVADING *META'S* PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN HOPES OF ASSASSINATING *PRESIDENT OLON, KHAOS, LORD OF TERROR*, BECAME LOCKED IN A BATTLE TO THE DEATH WITH *SHADE, THE CHANGING MAN*. AS THE DEATH-STRUGGLE NEARED ITS MIND-CHILLING CLIMAX, *KHAOS'S* POWER FIELD EXPLODED, HURLING THE VILLAIN FAR OUT OF SIGHT AND LEAVING *RAC SHADE* IN AN INEXPLICABLE CONDITION!

SHADE, THE CHANGING MAN, Vol. 2, No. 7, June/July, 1978. Published bi-monthly by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Copyright © 1978 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

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WHEN COL. LOPAK ARRIVES TO INVESTIGATE...

NO TRACE OF ANY DEAD BODIES HERE, COLONEL!

KHAOS' POWER MUST HAVE ACCIDENTALLY OVER-GENERATED, BLOWING HIM TO BITS. IF YOUR SUSPICIONS OF SHADE AND KHAOS BEING *ONE AND THE SAME* WERE *TRUE*, COLONEL, THEN THEY'RE *BOTH* DEAD!

PERHAPS, MR. PRESIDENT!

BUT I DISLIKE EXPLANATION BY "*ACCIDENTS*"! I MEAN TO FIND *SOME* TRACE OF KHAOS'S BODY HERE!

LOPOK ISN'T BUYING MY STORY--HE'LL KEEP THE SHADE-KHAOS INVESTIGATION *OPEN*!

BUT I'VE COMMITTED MYSELF AND I'D BETTER WATCH MY STEP! I MAY BE META'S PRESIDENT, BUT IF I'M CAUGHT PROTECTING A MAN UNDER A DEATH SENTENCE, EVEN MY HIGH OFFICE WON'T SAVE ME FROM THE CONSEQUENCES!

STILL, IT'S TOO LATE TO BACK OUT NOW! ONLY *SHADE* KNOWS THE FULL STORY OF THE *M-VEST*! IF HE *LIVES*, HE'LL BE ABLE TO *TELL* IT TO ME!

THERE'S SOMETHING *SUSPICIOUS* GOING ON HERE ALL RIGHT!

OLON COULD BE NERVOUS FROM FROM HIS CLOSE CALL WITH DEATH, BUT IF HE'S *HIDING* SOMETHING, I'LL FIND OUT WHAT THAT SOMETHING *IS*!

WHILE IN THE PRESIDENT'S GUEST ROOM...

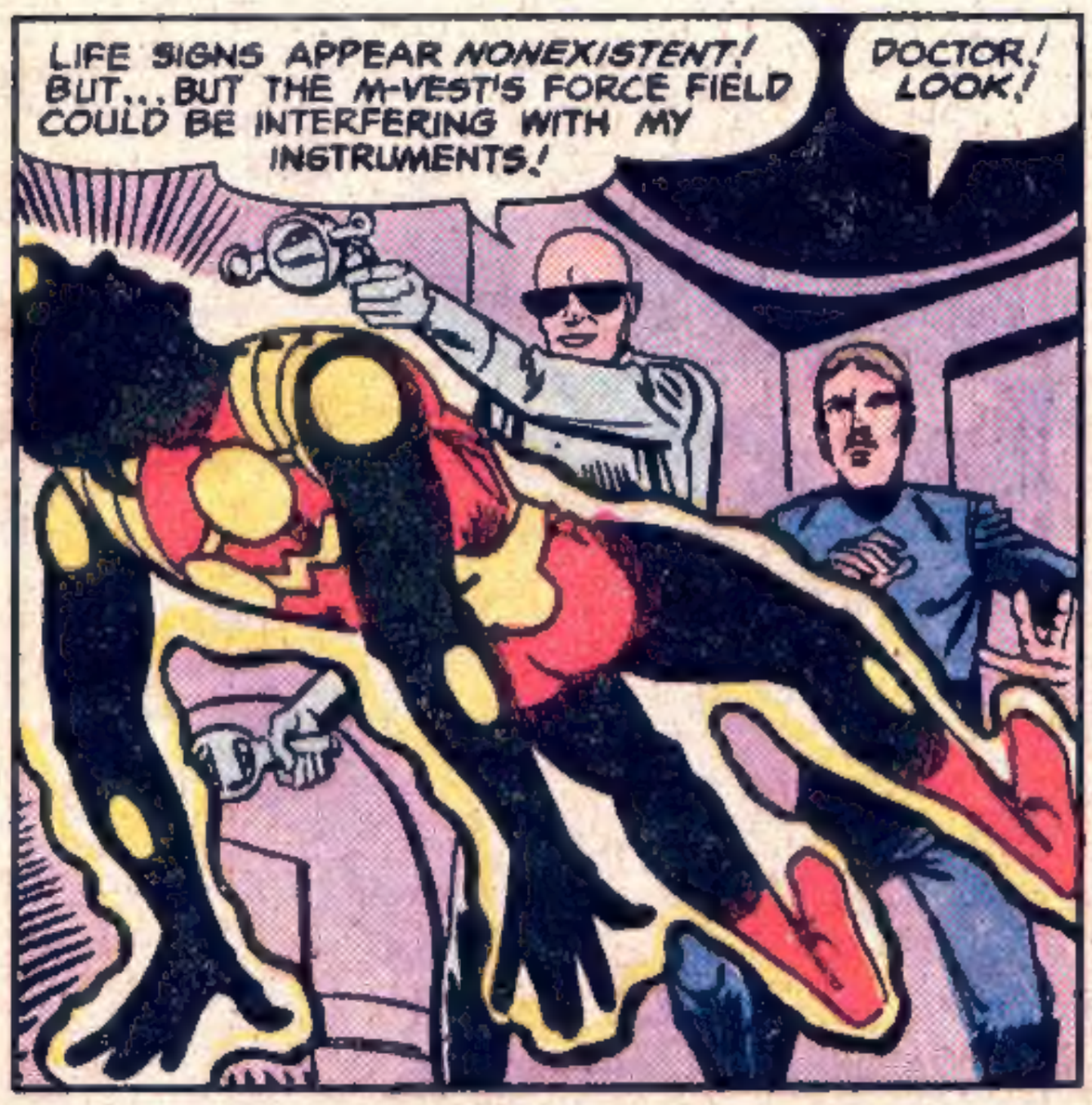
I APOLOGIZE FOR ALL THE *SECRECY*, DR. SAGAN! BUT *BELIEVE* ME, IT'S *NECESSARY*!

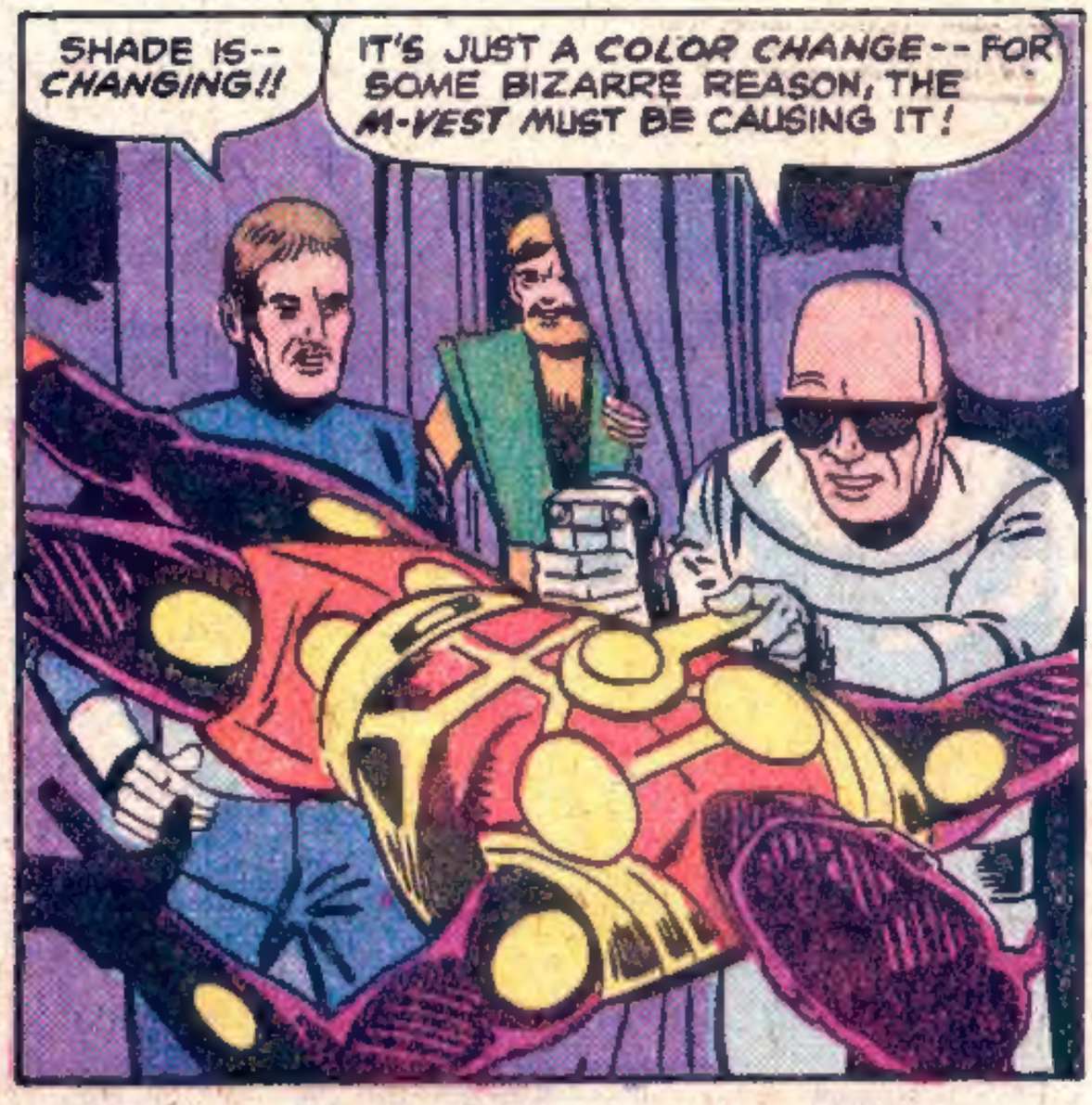
I AM A LITTLE CONFUSED, COL. KROSS!

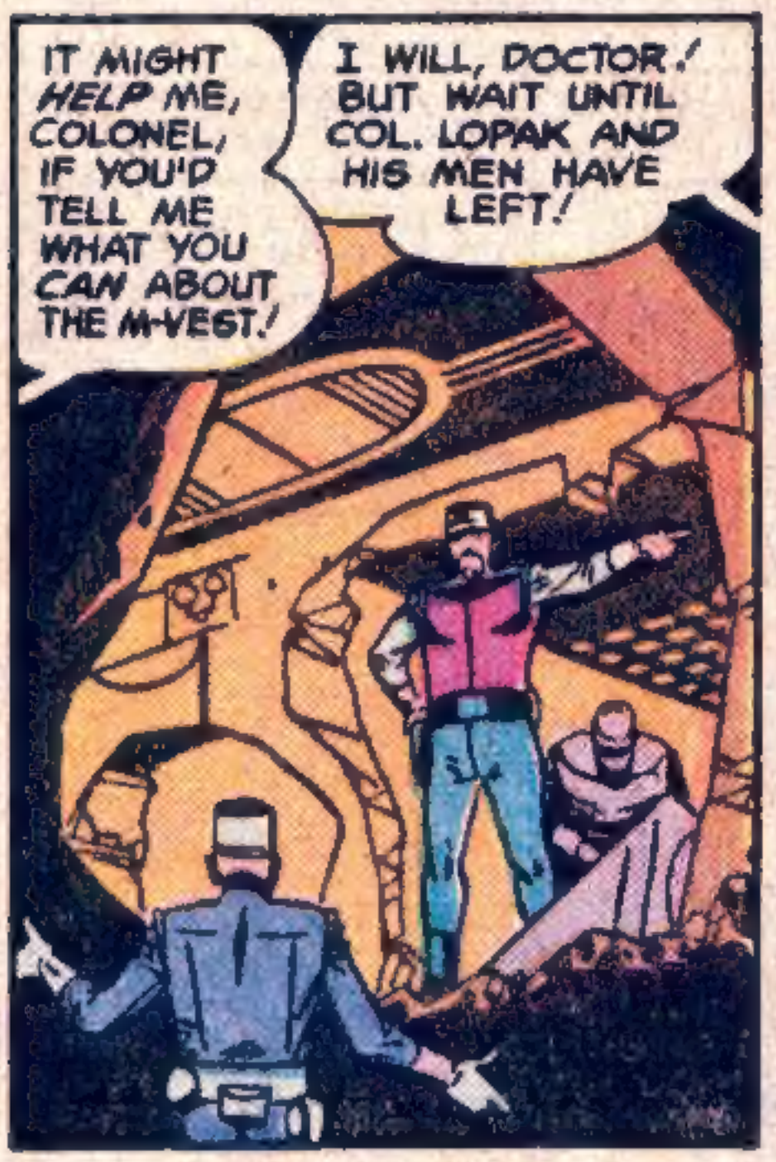
YOU SAID THIS INVOLVED A MEDICAL--

WHA--! TH-THAT *VEST*! *RAC SHADE*! GREAT META! IS-IS HE *ALIVE*?

THAT, DOCTOR, IS WHAT WE'RE COUNTING ON *YOU* TO TELL *US*!


LIFE SIGNS APPEAR NONEXISTENT! BUT... BUT THE M-VEST'S FORCE FIELD COULD BE INTERFERING WITH MY INSTRUMENTS!
DOCTOR! LOOK!

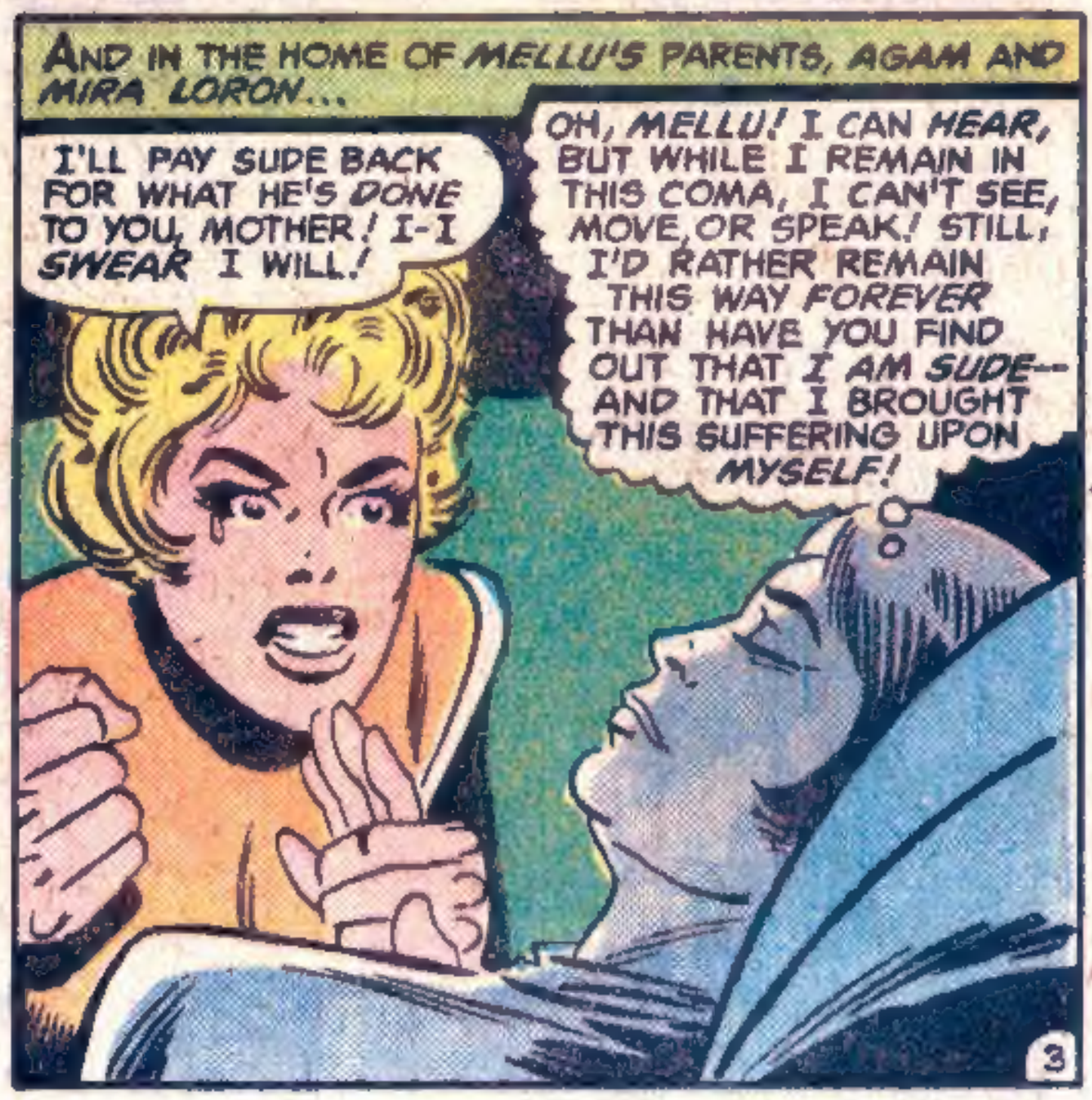

SHADE IS-- CHANGING!!
IT'S JUST A COLOR CHANGE -- FOR SOME BIZARRE REASON, THE M-VEST MUST BE CAUSING IT!

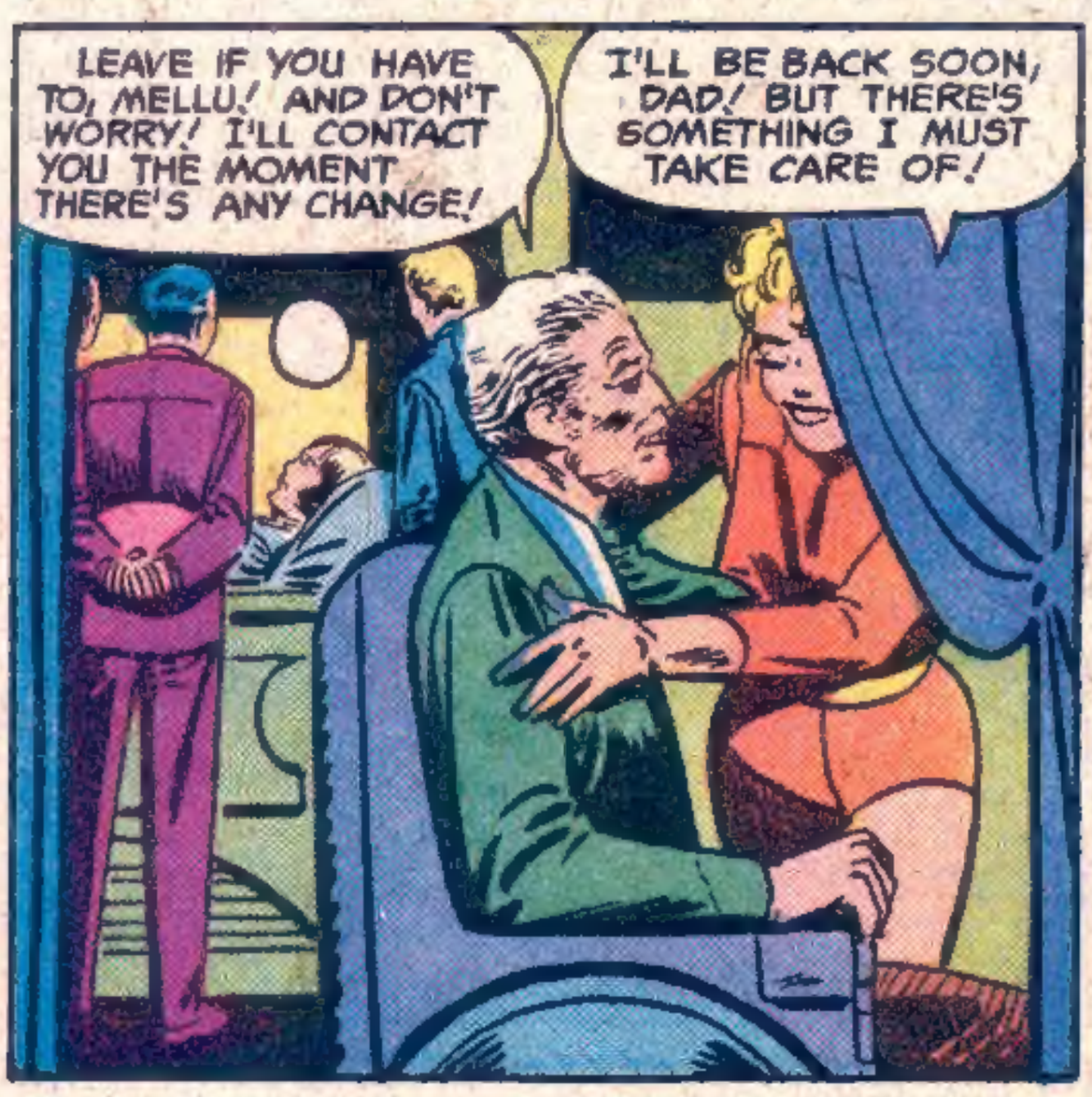

IT MIGHT HELP ME, COLONEL, IF YOU'D TELL ME WHAT YOU CAN ABOUT THE M-VEST!
I WILL, DOCTOR! BUT WAIT UNTIL COL. LOPAK AND HIS MEN HAVE LEFT!

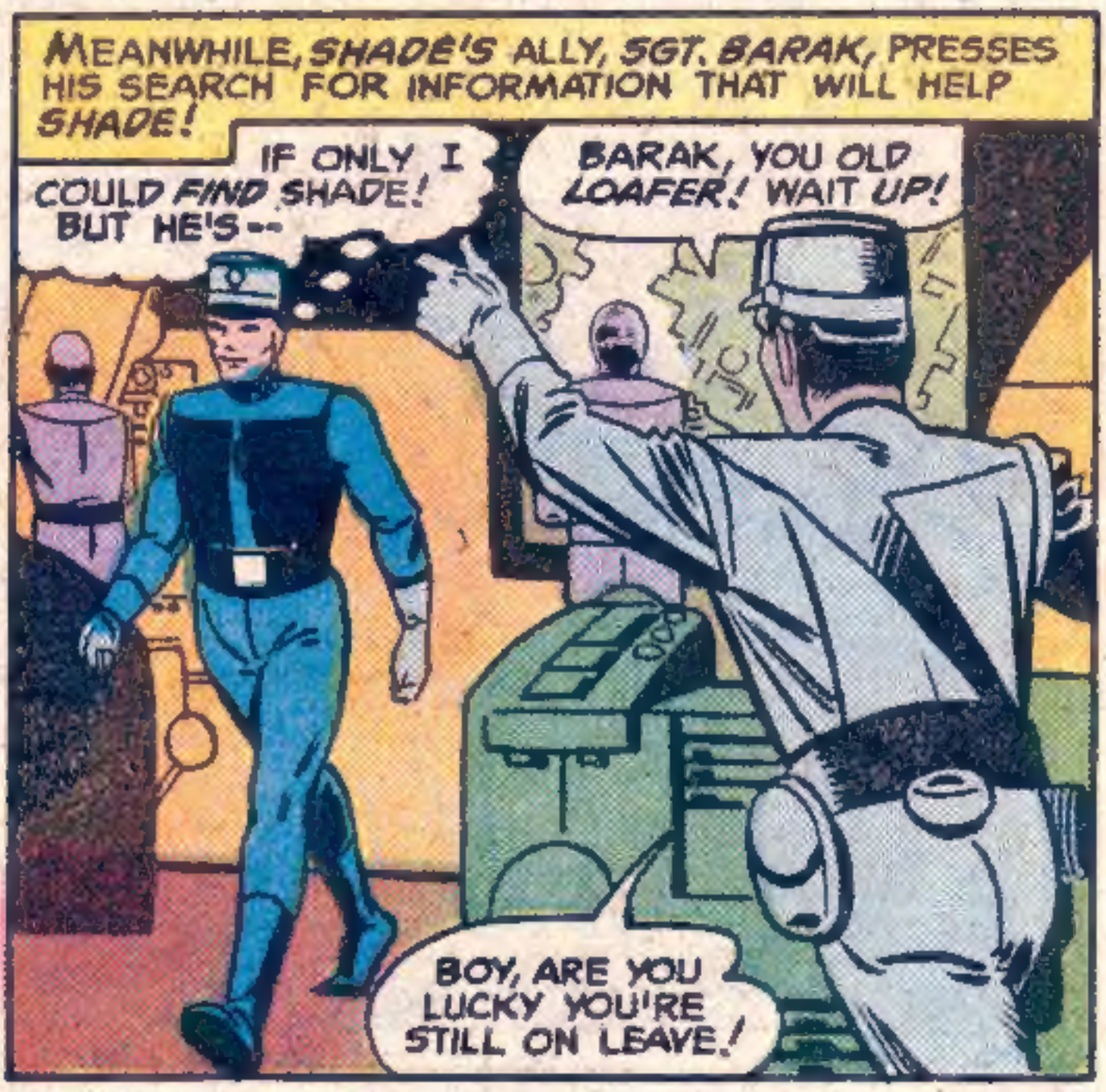
MEANWHILE, AT DR. Z. Z'S TRAINING ACADEMY--
AS YOU KNOW, WE WERE TRAINING TO CONQUER THE EARTH-ZONE FOR SUDE! NOW, SUDE IS GONE AND WE ARE IN DANGER OF BEING DISCOVERED!

BUT FEAR NOT, MY STUDENTS, FOR I HAVE DEVISED A BOLD PLAN WHEREBY WE MAY ESCAPE DETECTION -- AND ESTABLISH OURSELVES AS MASTERS OF BOTH THE EARTH AND META-ZONES!

SPEAK UP NOW! DO YOU ELECT TO STAY BEHIND, OR TO FOLLOW ME TO GLORY AND CONQUEST?
WE WILL FOLLOW YOU, DR. Z.Z.-- TO THE DEATH!


AND IN THE HOME OF MELLU'S PARENTS, AGAM AND MIRA LORON...
I'LL PAY SUDE BACK FOR WHAT HE'S DONE TO YOU, MOTHER! I-I SWEAR I WILL!
OH, MELLU! I CAN HEAR, BUT WHILE I REMAIN IN THIS COMA, I CAN'T SEE, MOVE, OR SPEAK! STILL, I'D RATHER REMAIN THIS WAY FOREVER THAN HAVE YOU FIND OUT THAT I AM SUDE-- AND THAT I BROUGHT THIS SUFFERING UPON MYSELF!





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BACK AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE...

IT-IT'S ASTOUNDING! HE'S CHANGED COLOR AGAIN, BUT HIS LIFE SIGNS ARE STILL SO LOW AS TO BE IMPERCEPTIBLE!

DR. SAGAN, YOU ASKED ME ABOUT THE M-VEST! WELL...

"YOU KNOW, OF COURSE, ABOUT OUR UNIVERSE! ABOUT THE EARTH-ZONE AND THE META-ZONE! AND ABOUT THE IMPENETRABLE BARRIER THAT ENCIRCLES THE META-ZONE! A NUMBER OF THE PLANETS IN OUR ZONE..."

"... ARE UNFIT FOR LIFE! THEY ARE ALL SURROUNDED BY FORCE BARRIERS OF VARYING STRENGTHS AND INTENSITIES! OUR MINING ENGINEERS HAVE ALWAYS HAD DIFFICULTY PENETRATING THESE BARRIERS AND CARRYING ON MINING OPERATIONS UNDER VARYING ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS!"

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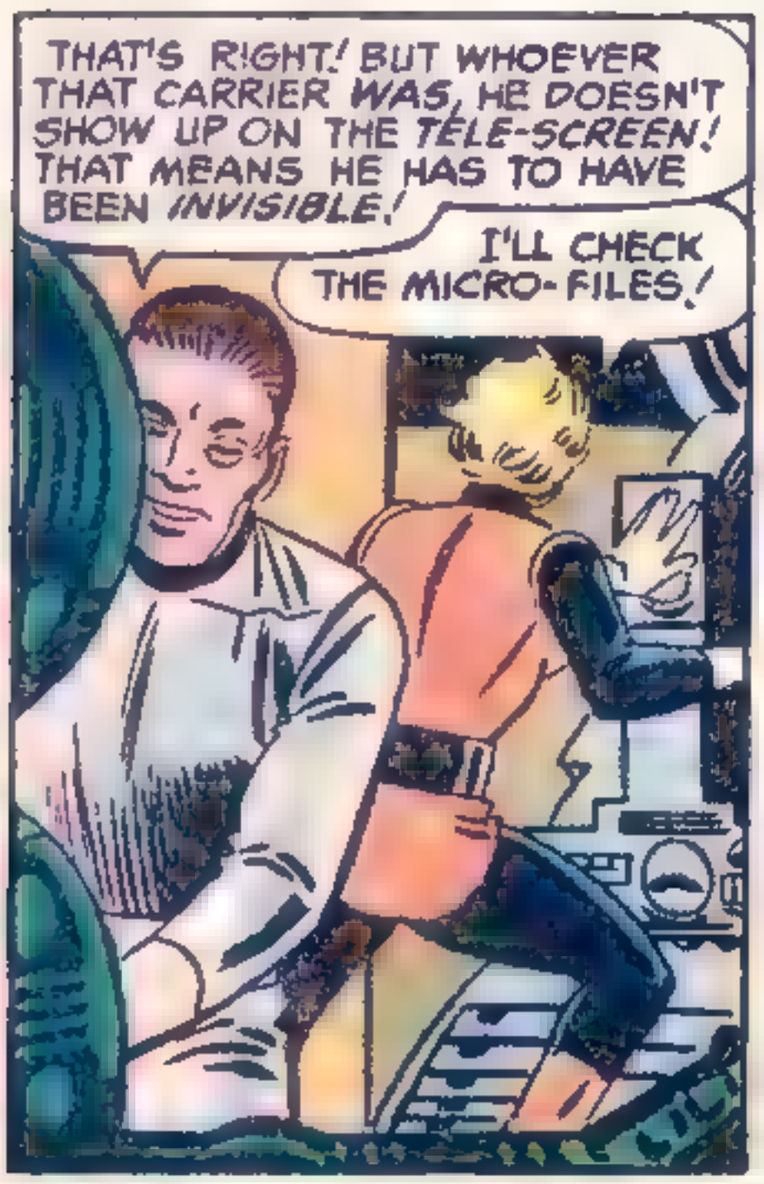
MY STORY WILL HAVE TO WAIT! SHADE'S FORCE FIELD IS ACTING UP AGAIN!

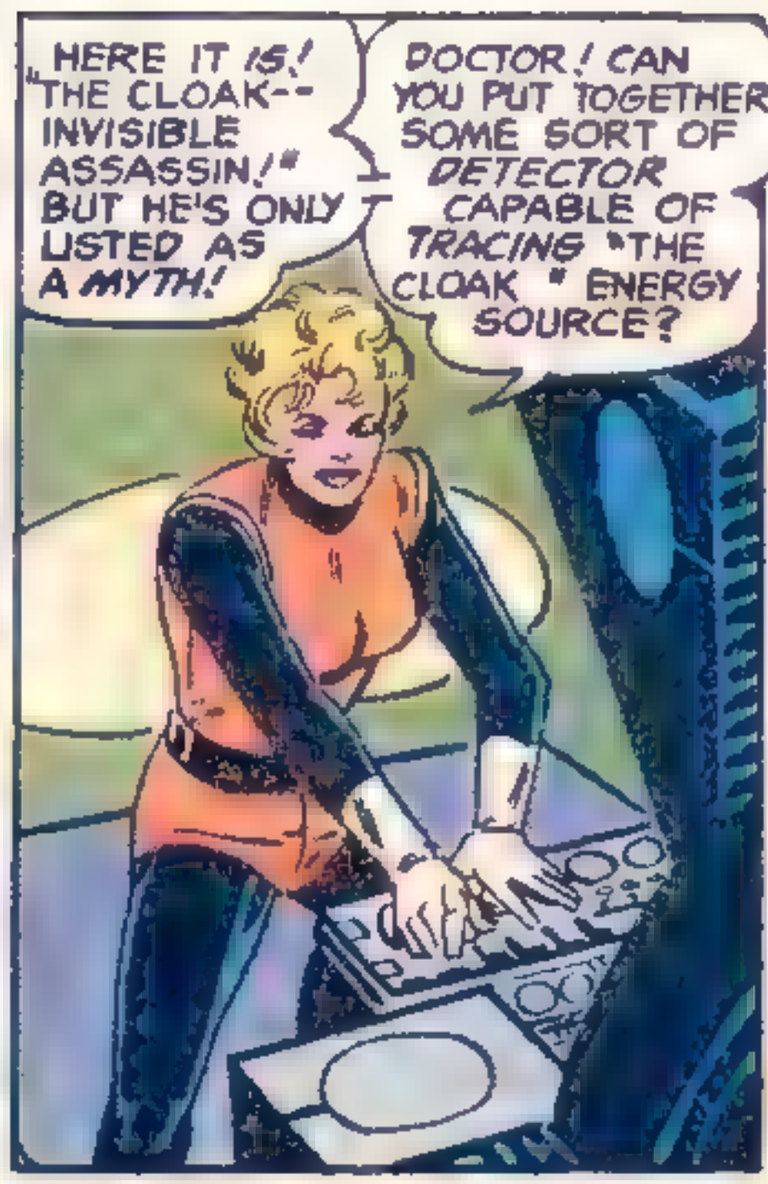
YES! AND AGAIN, HE'S CHANGING COLOR! I DON'T EVEN COMPREHEND THIS PHENOMENON, MUCH LESS KNOW HOW TO CURE IT!

AT A METAN SCIENTIFIC CENTER...

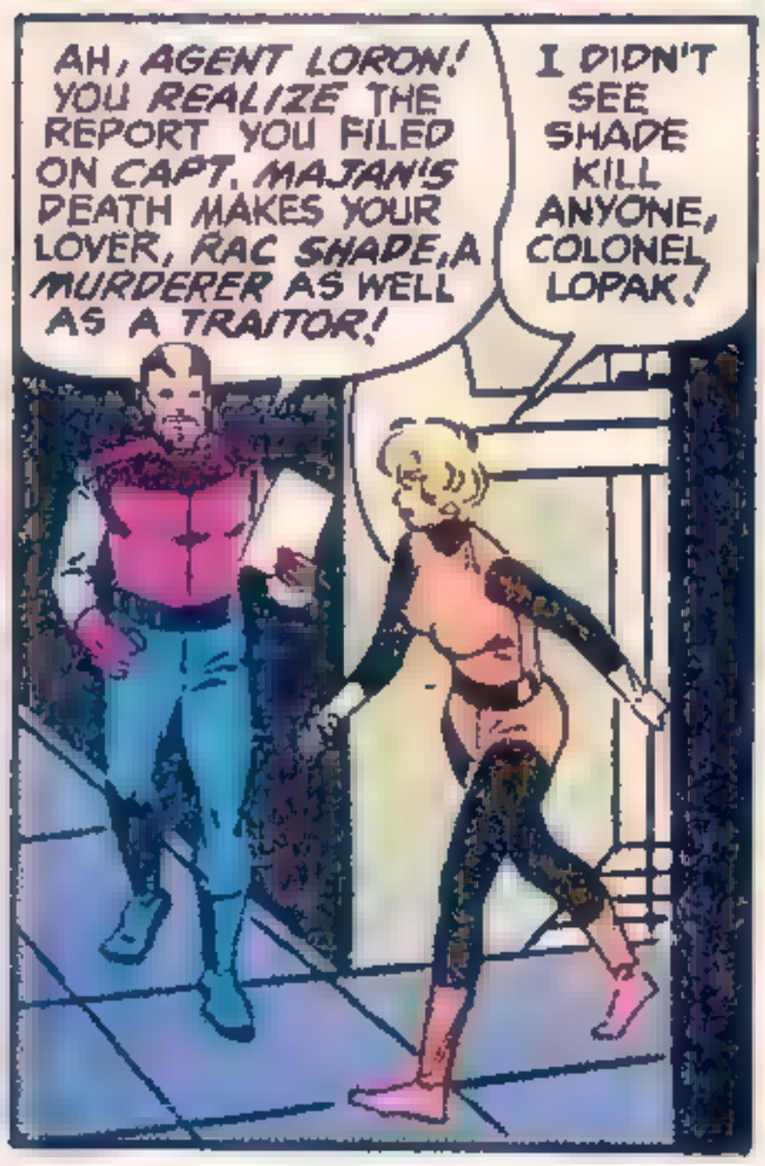
MELLU, THESE PULSATIONS REPRESENT SHADE'S IMPULSES ENTERING AND LEAVING CAPT. MAJAN'S OFFICE THE AFTERNOON MAJAN WAS KILLED! BUT THOSE OTHER WAVES SHOW A DIFFERENT ENERGY CARRIER ASSOCIATED WITH THE ELECTRO PADS USED TO MURDER HIM!

DR. ELER-- YOU'RE SAYING SHADE WASN'T ALONE WITH MAJAN WHEN HE DIED?


THAT'S RIGHT! BUT WHOEVER THAT CARRIER WAS, HE DOESN'T SHOW UP ON THE TELE-SCREEN! THAT MEANS HE HAS TO HAVE BEEN INVISIBLE!
I'LL CHECK THE MICRO-FILES!

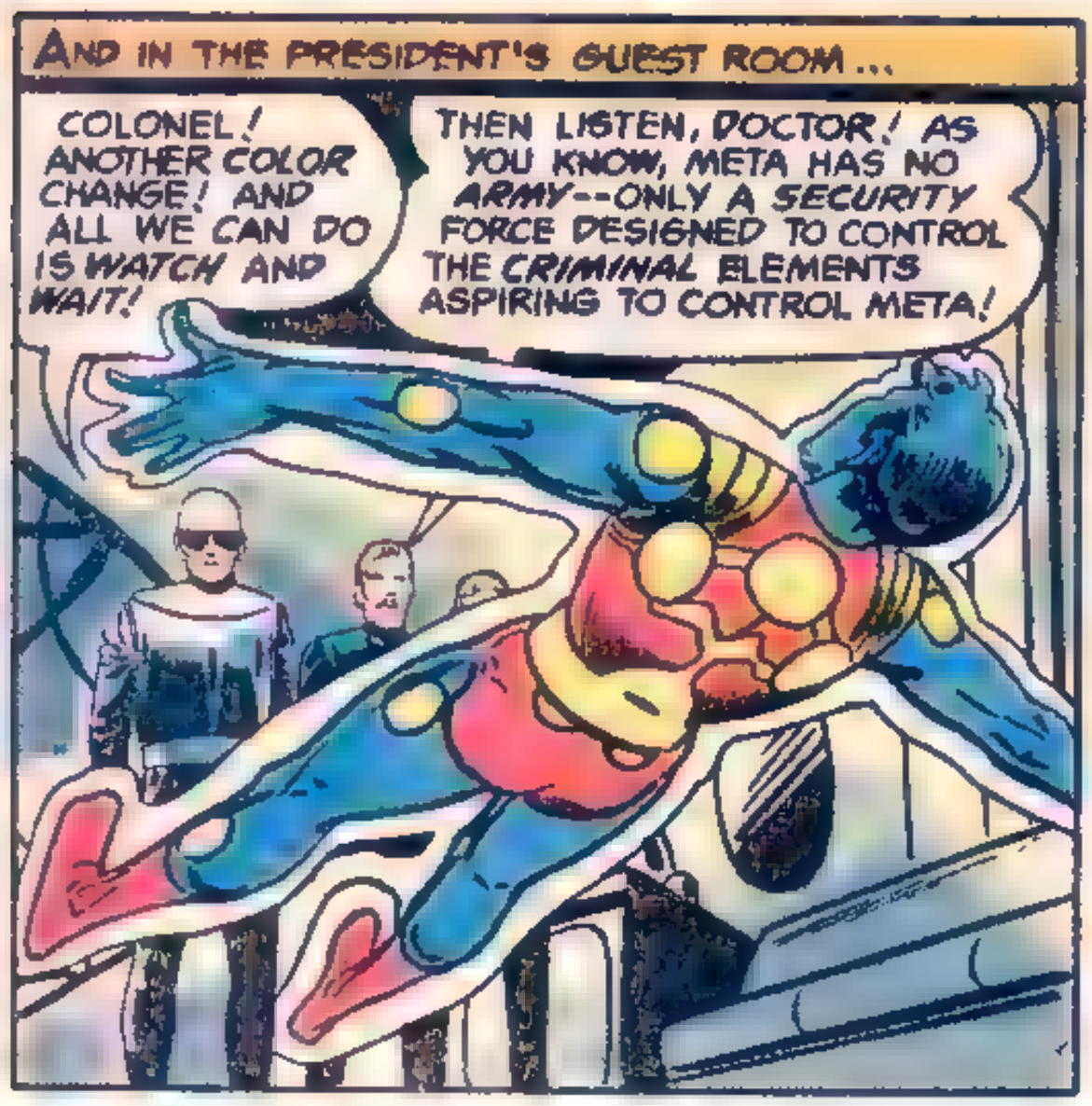

HERE IT IS! "THE CLOAK--INVISIBLE ASSASSIN!" BUT HE'S ONLY LISTED AS A MYTH!
DOCTOR! CAN YOU PUT TOGETHER SOME SORT OF DETECTOR CAPABLE OF TRACING "THE CLOAK" ENERGY SOURCE?

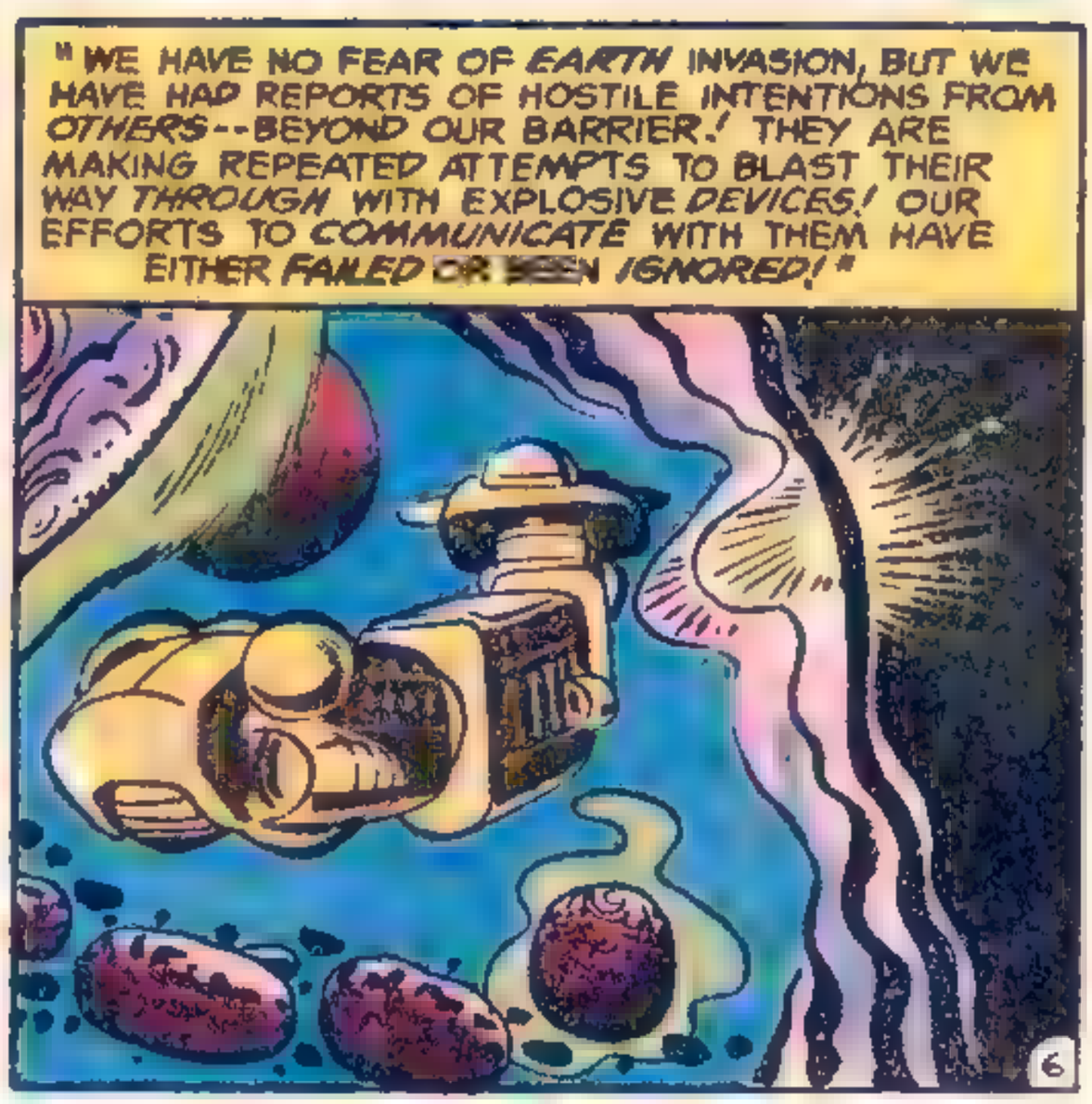
YES! I THINK IT COULD BE DONE! I'LL GET RIGHT ON IT!
GOOD! I'LL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO BEGIN MY SEARCH!

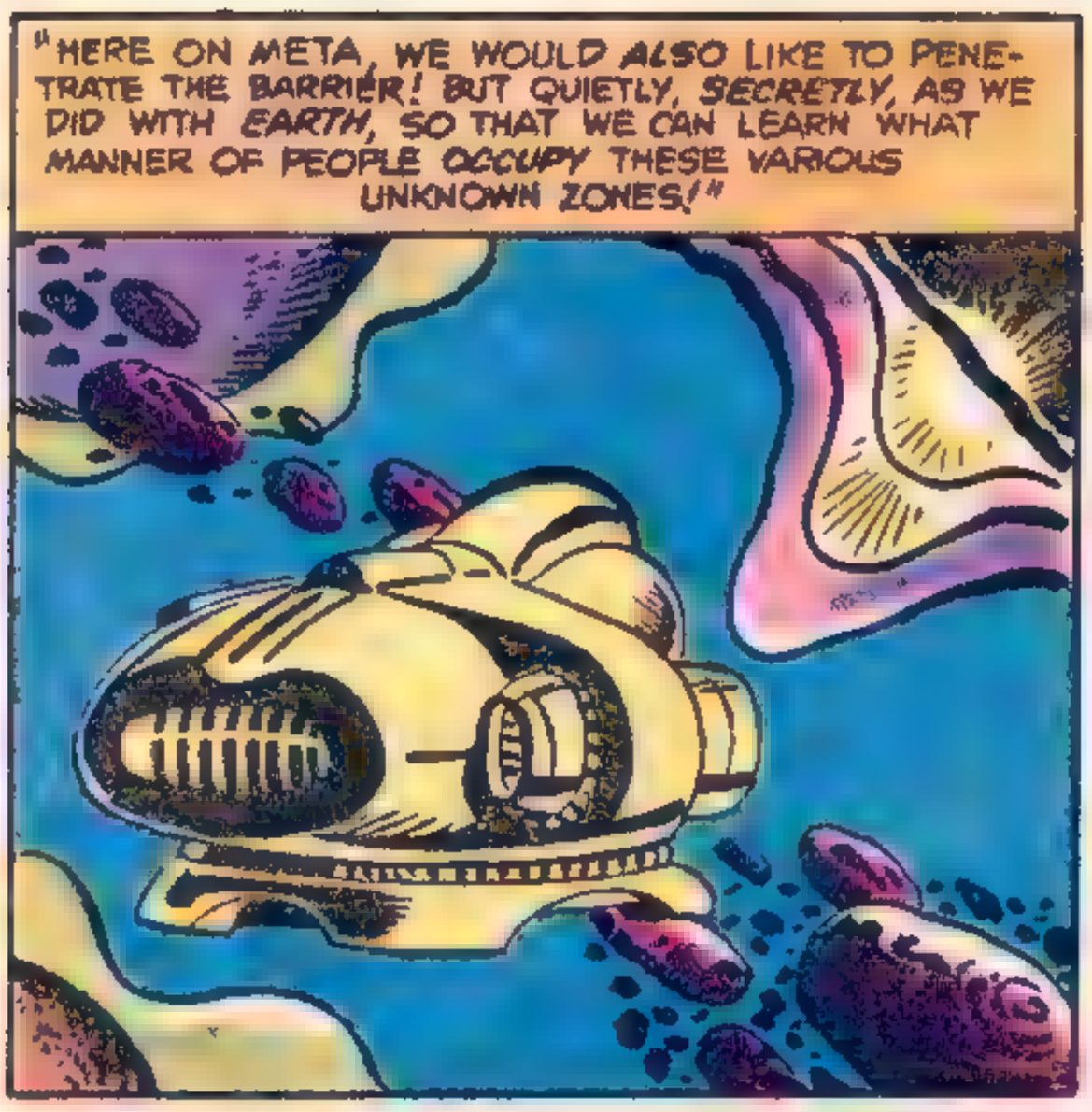

AH, AGENT LORON! YOU REALIZE THE REPORT YOU FILED ON CAPT. MAJAN'S DEATH MAKES YOUR LOVER, RAC SHADE, A MURDERER AS WELL AS A TRAITOR!
I DIDN'T SEE SHADE KILL ANYONE, COLONEL LOPAK!

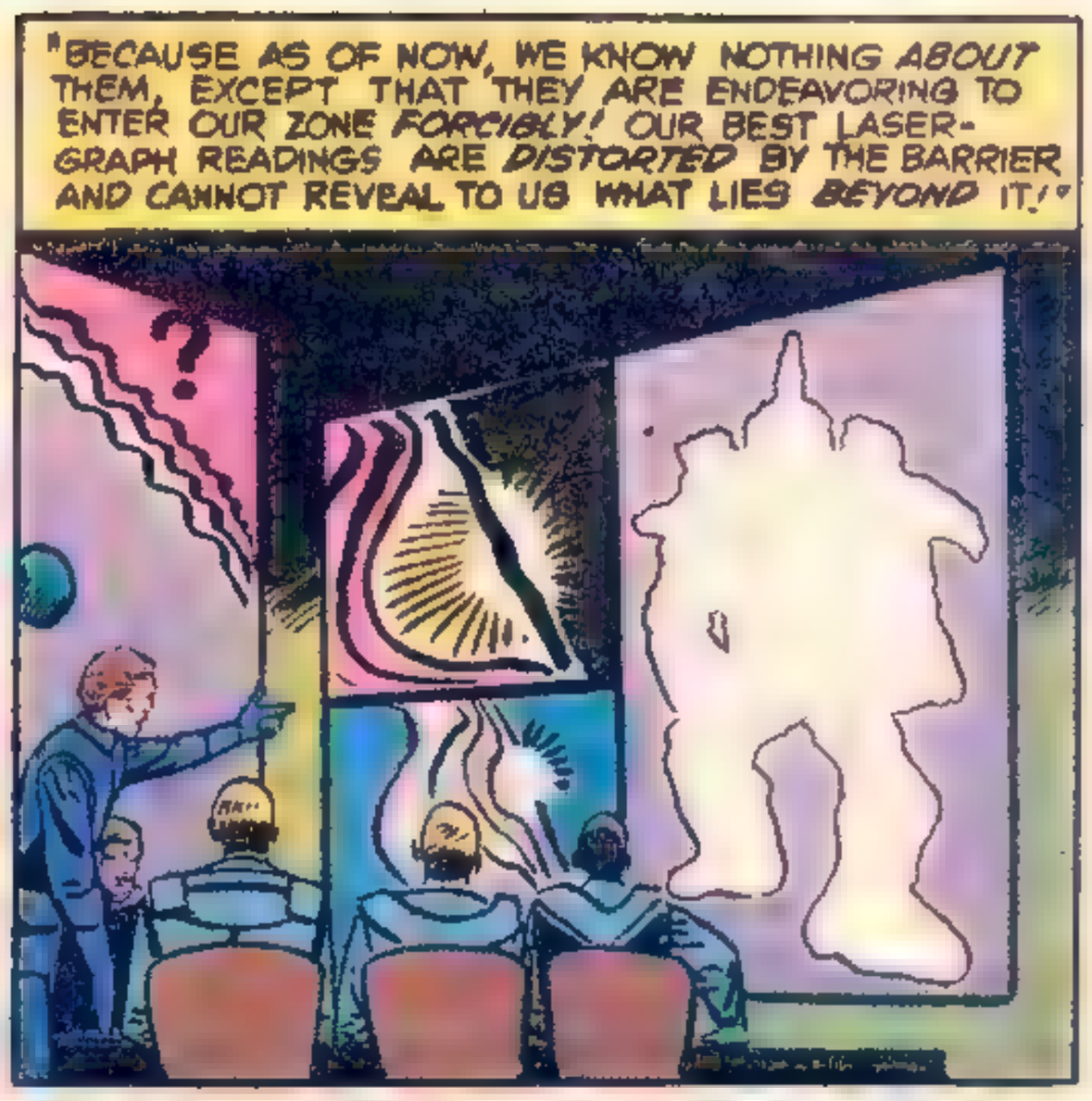
COME NOW, AGENT LORON! YOU KNOW CAPT. MAJAN DIDN'T KILL HIMSELF! WHERE'S YOUR PROOF OF SOMEONE ELSE KILLING MAJAN?
I HAVE NO "SOMEONE ELSE," COLONEL, SO I HAVE NO PROOF!

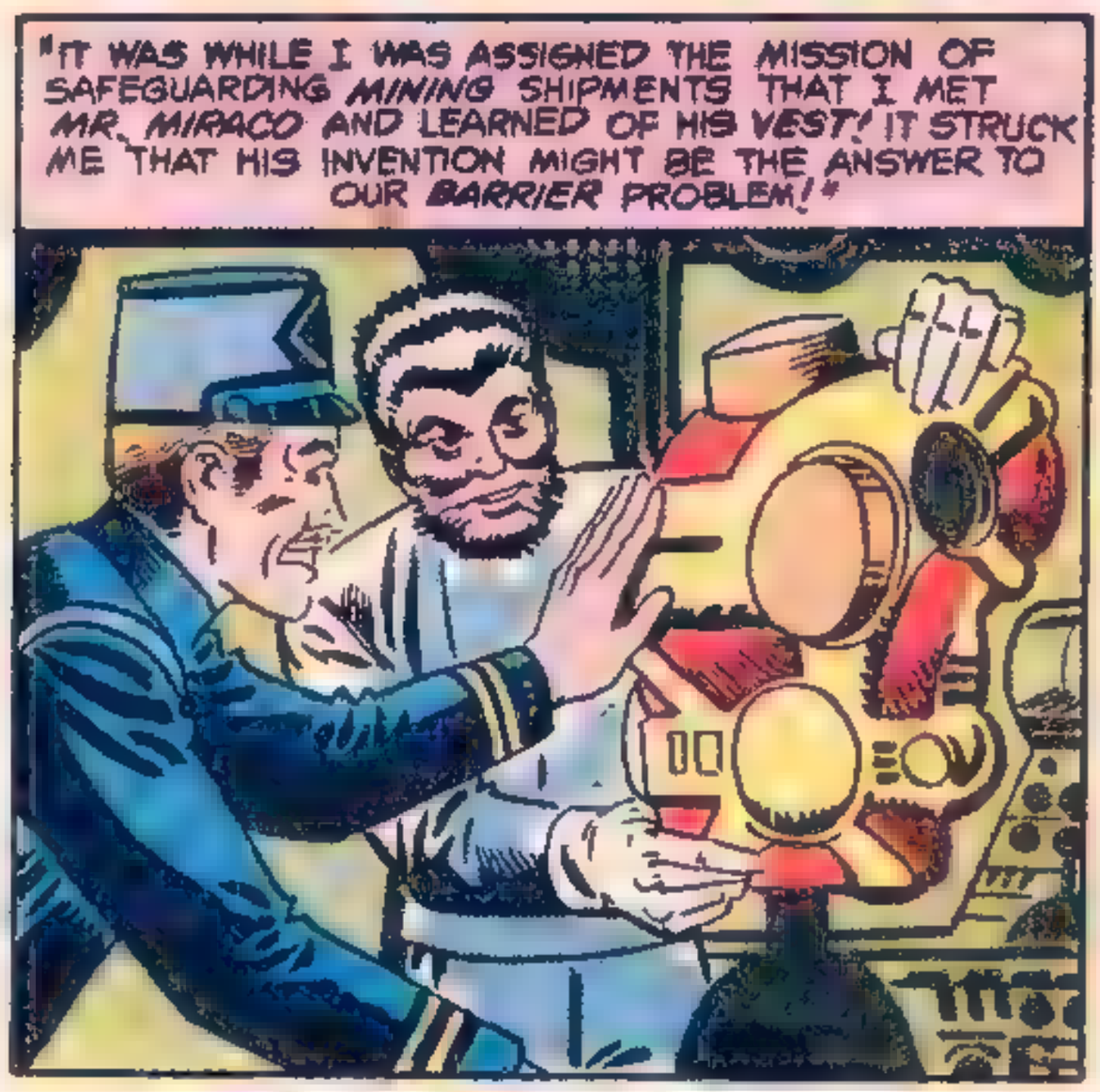
YOU'RE EITHER A VERY FAIR PERSON, OR A CLEVER UNFAIR ONE!
YOU SHALL HAVE TO PROVE WHICH I AM, COLONEL LOPAK!
I'LL PROVE MORE THAN THAT, I PROMISE YOU!

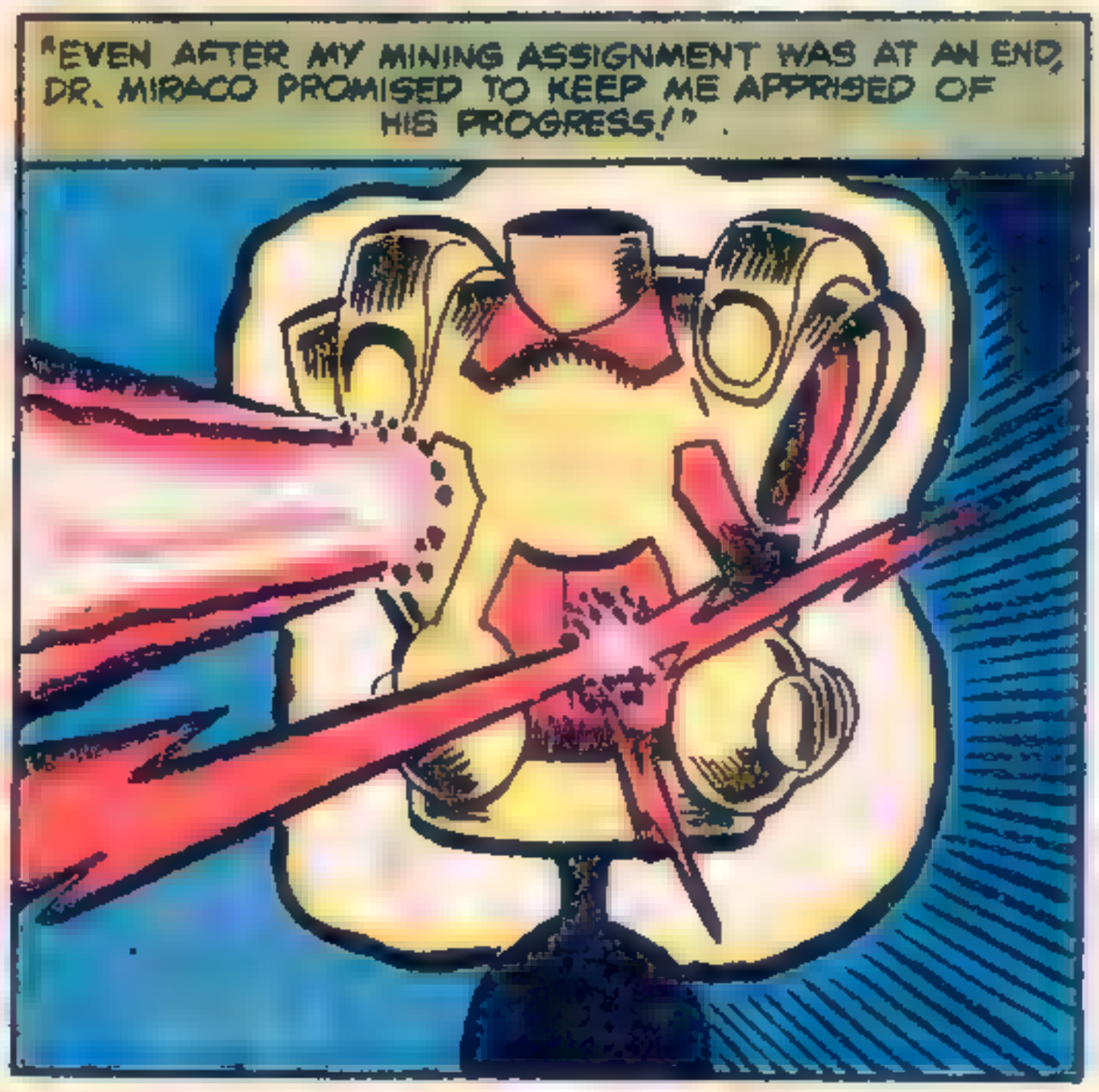

AND IN THE PRESIDENT'S GUEST ROOM...
COLONEL! ANOTHER COLOR CHANGE! AND ALL WE CAN DO IS WATCH AND WAIT!
THEN LISTEN, DOCTOR! AS YOU KNOW, META HAS NO ARMY--ONLY A SECURITY FORCE DESIGNED TO CONTROL THE CRIMINAL ELEMENTS ASPIRING TO CONTROL META!

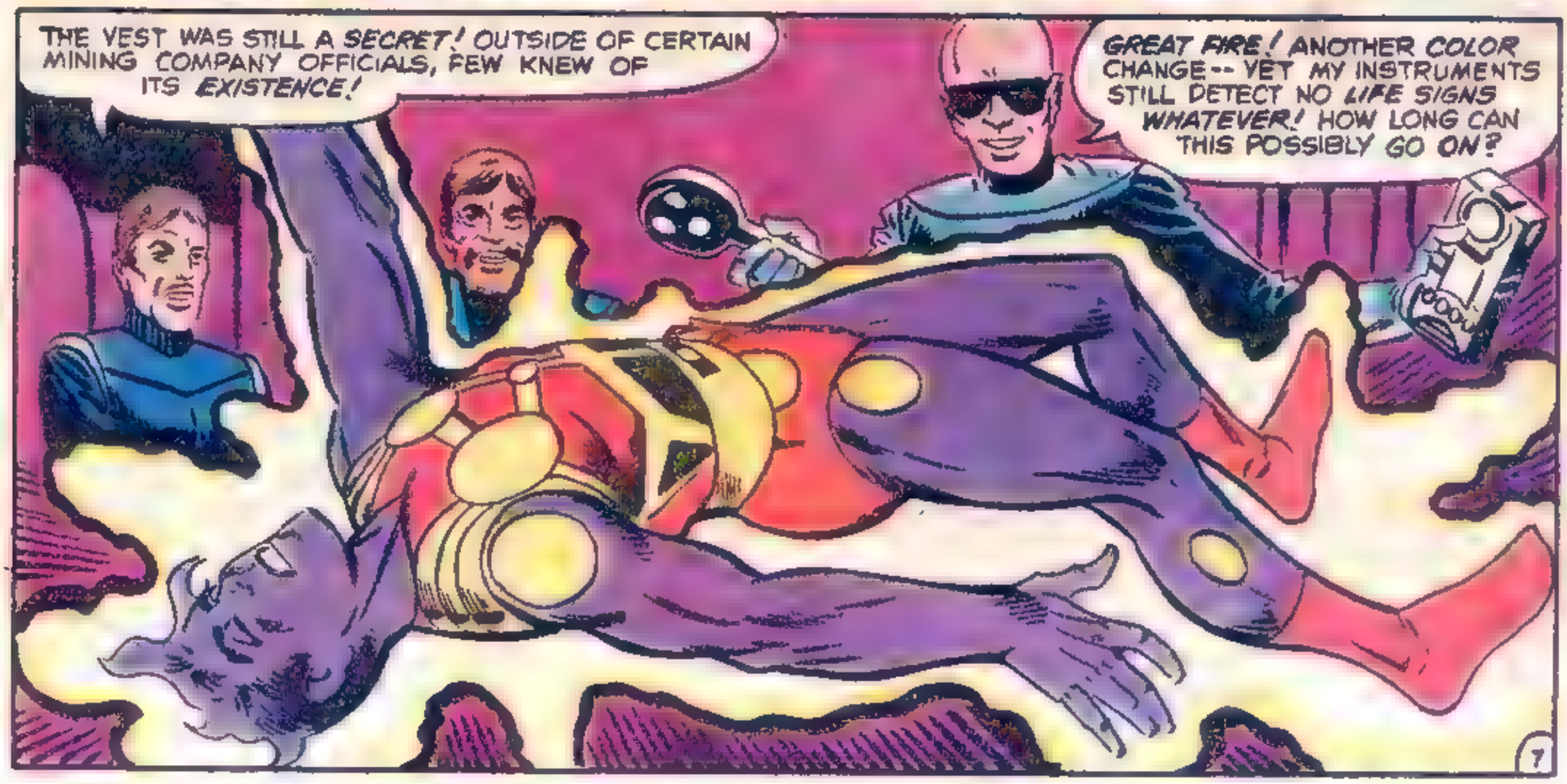

"WE HAVE NO FEAR OF EARTH INVASION, BUT WE HAVE HAD REPORTS OF HOSTILE INTENTIONS FROM OTHERS--BEYOND OUR BARRIER! THEY ARE MAKING REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO BLAST THEIR WAY THROUGH WITH EXPLOSIVE DEVICES! OUR EFFORTS TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEM HAVE EITHER FAILED OR BEEN IGNORED!"

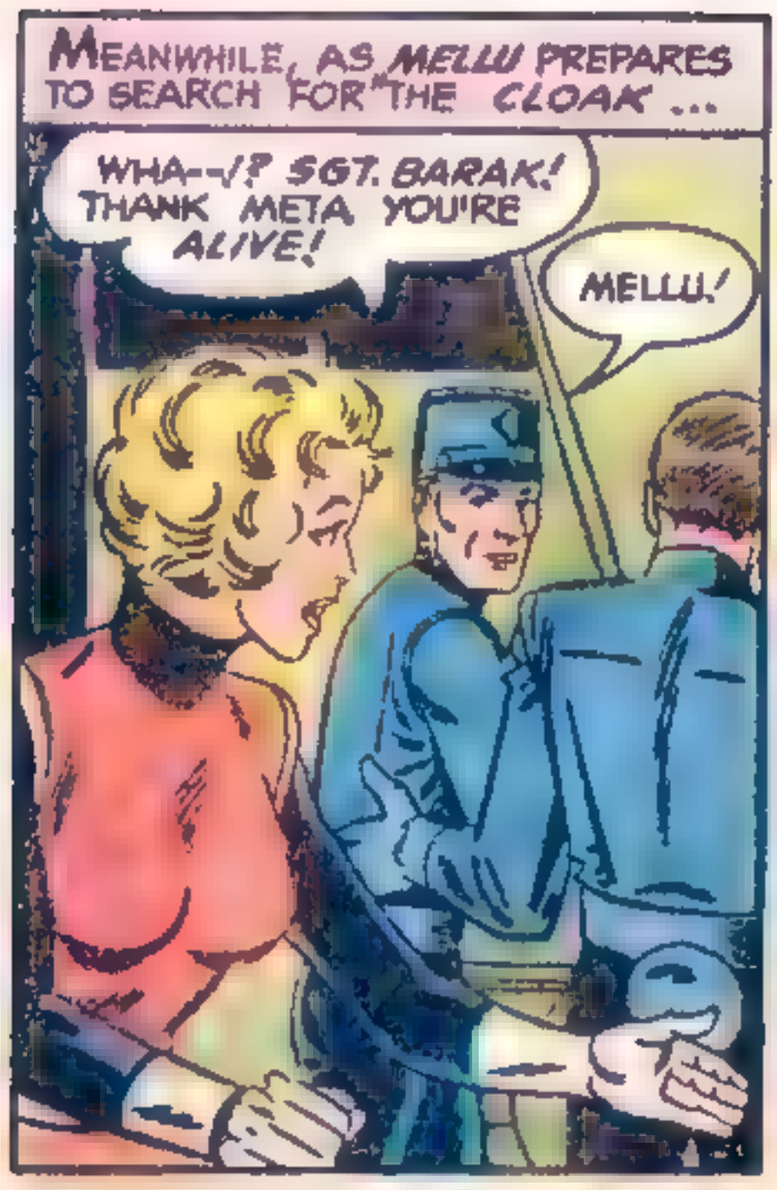

"HERE ON META, WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO PENETRATE THE BARRIER! BUT QUIETLY, SECRETLY, AS WE DID WITH EARTH, SO THAT WE CAN LEARN WHAT MANNER OF PEOPLE OCCUPY THESE VARIOUS UNKNOWN ZONES!"

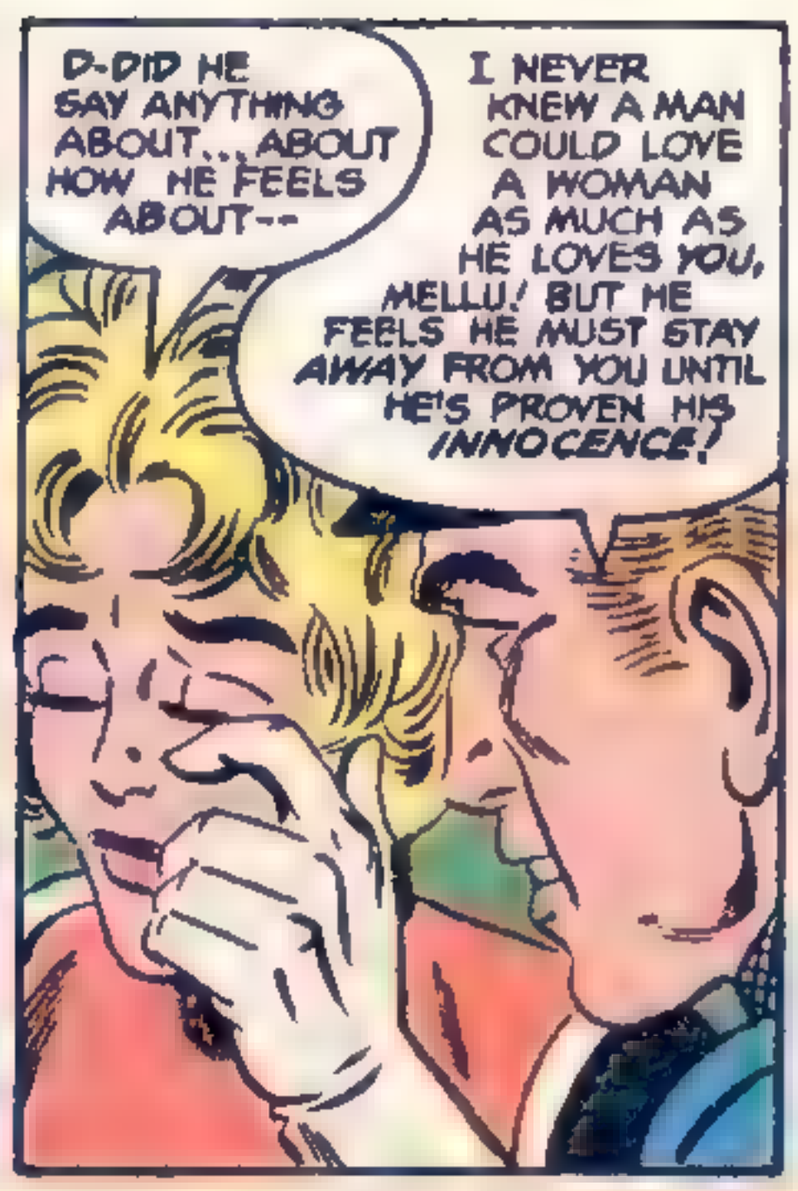

"BECAUSE AS OF NOW, WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THEM, EXCEPT THAT THEY ARE ENDEAVORING TO ENTER OUR ZONE FORCIBLY! OUR BEST LASER-GRAPH READINGS ARE DISTORTED BY THE BARRIER AND CANNOT REVEAL TO US WHAT LIES BEYOND IT!"

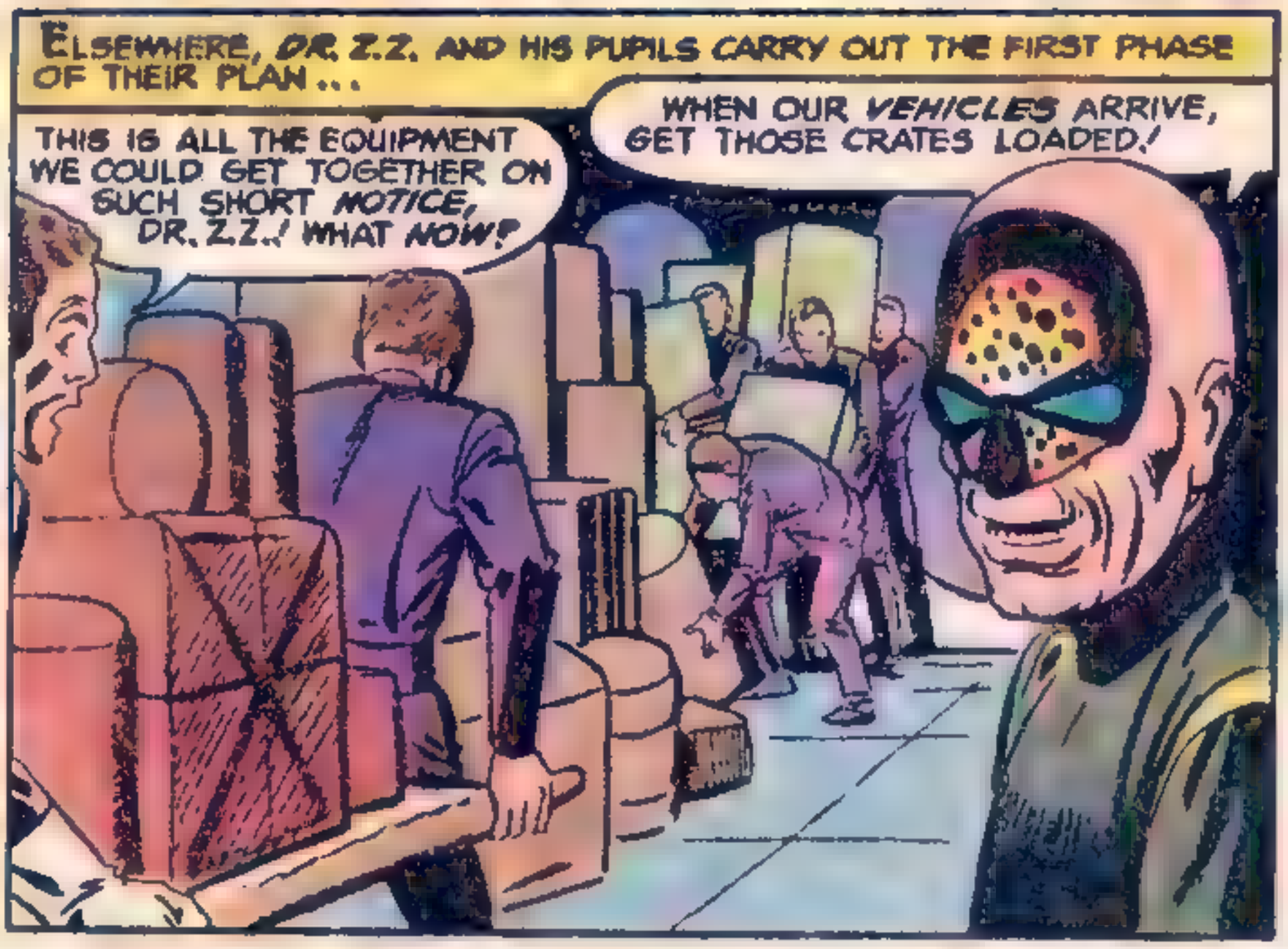

"IT WAS WHILE I WAS ASSIGNED THE MISSION OF SAFEGUARDING MINING SHIPMENTS THAT I MET MR. MIRACO AND LEARNED OF HIS VEST! IT STRUCK ME THAT HIS INVENTION MIGHT BE THE ANSWER TO OUR BARRIER PROBLEM!"

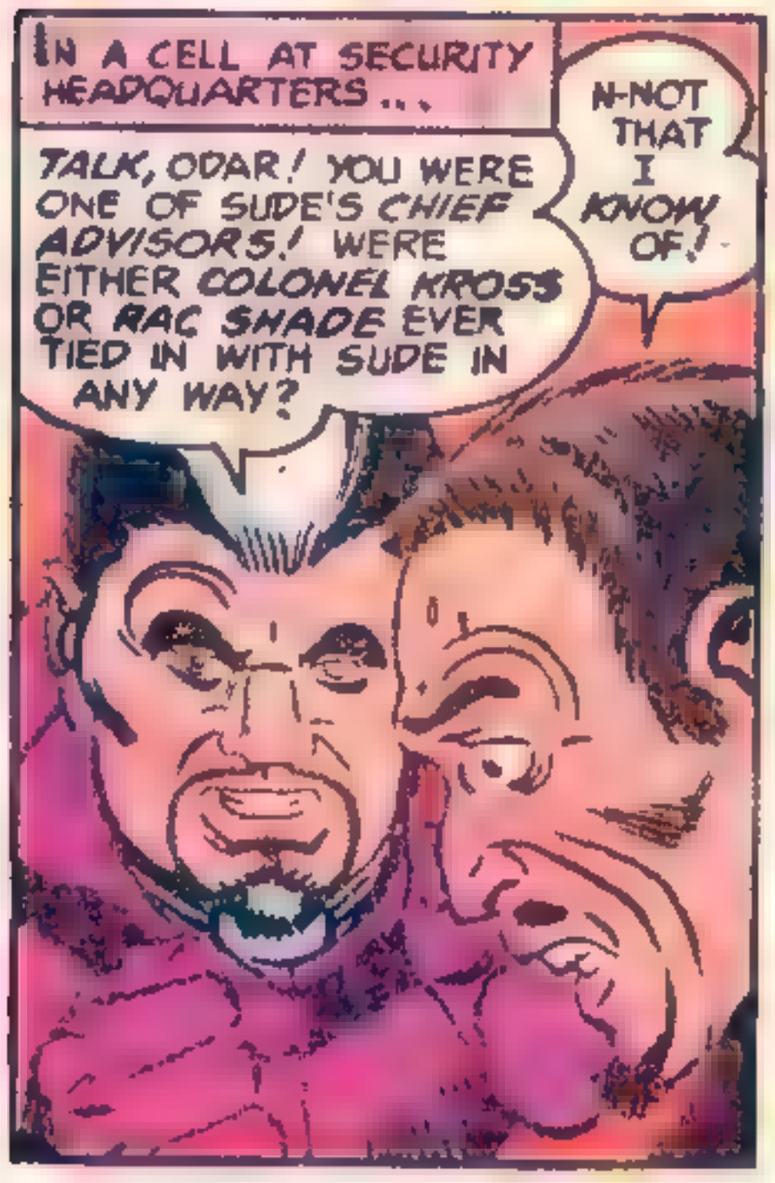

"EVEN AFTER MY MINING ASSIGNMENT WAS AT AN END, DR. MIRACO PROMISED TO KEEP ME APPRISED OF HIS PROGRESS!"

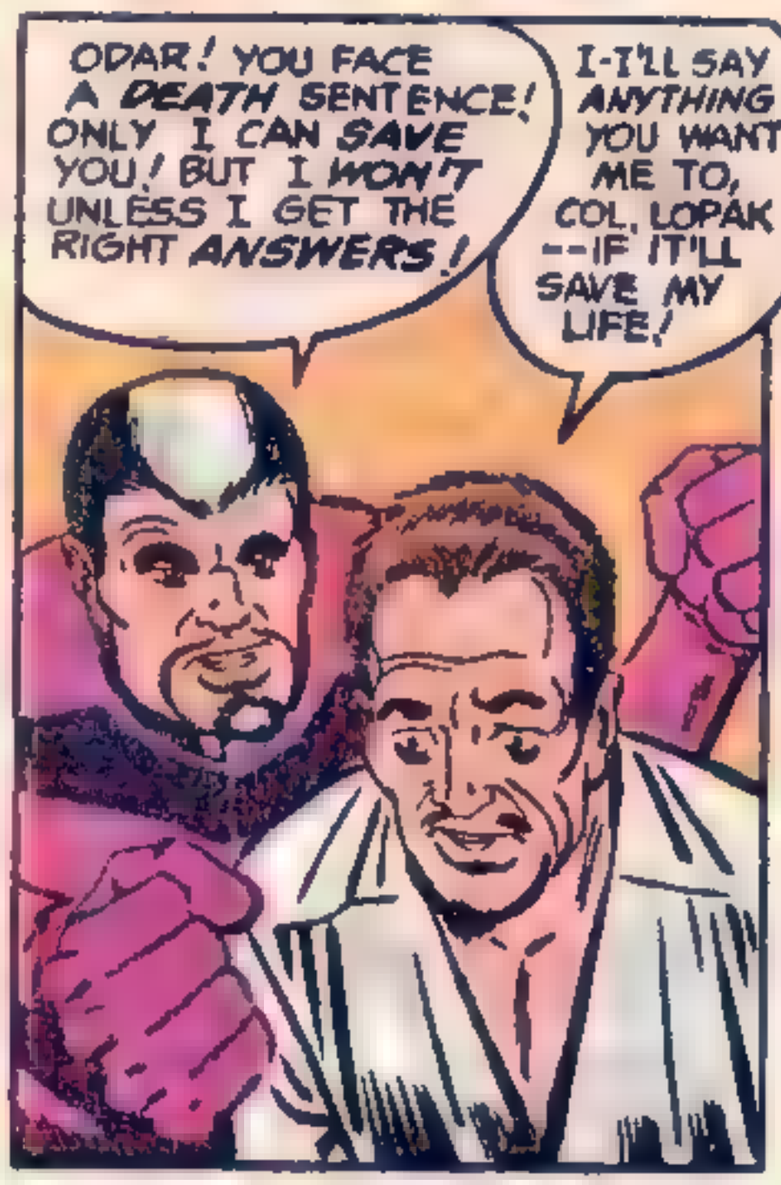

THE VEST WAS STILL A SECRET! OUTSIDE OF CERTAIN MINING COMPANY OFFICIALS, FEW KNEW OF ITS EXISTENCE!
GREAT FIRE! ANOTHER COLOR CHANGE -- YET MY INSTRUMENTS STILL DETECT NO LIFE SIGNS WHATEVER! HOW LONG CAN THIS POSSIBLY GO ON?

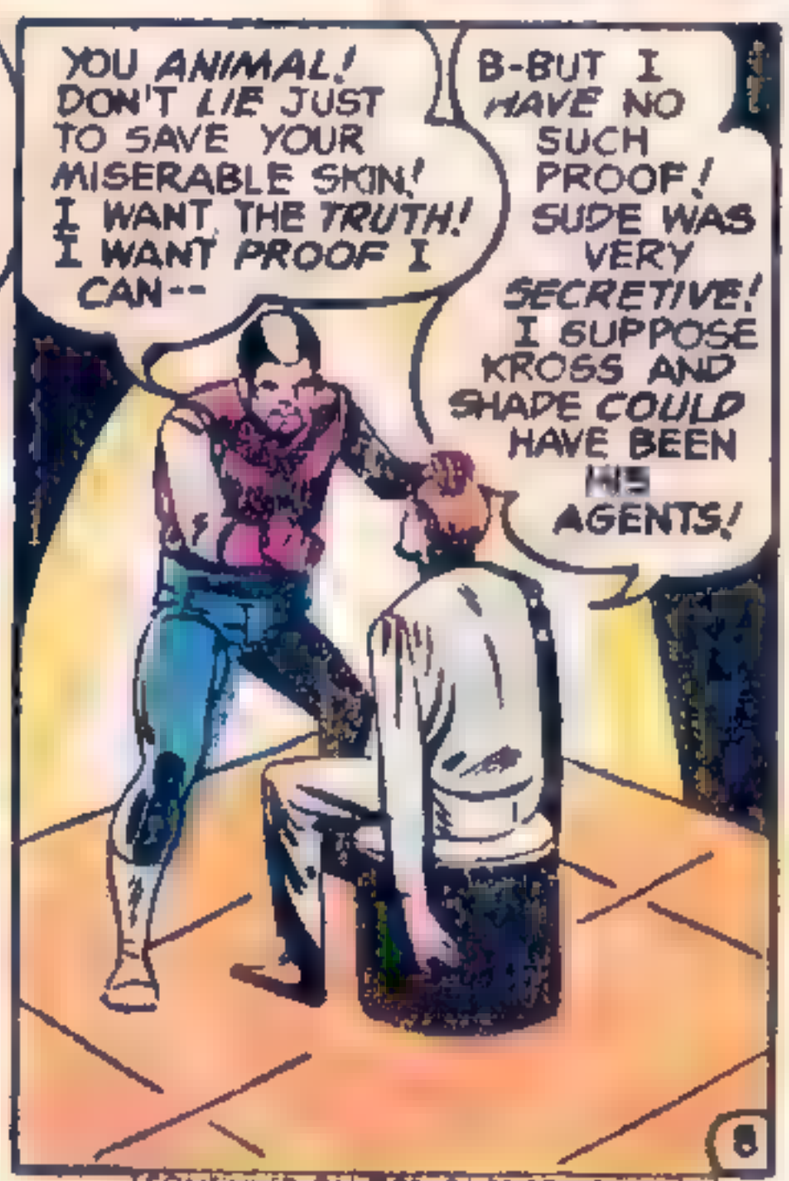












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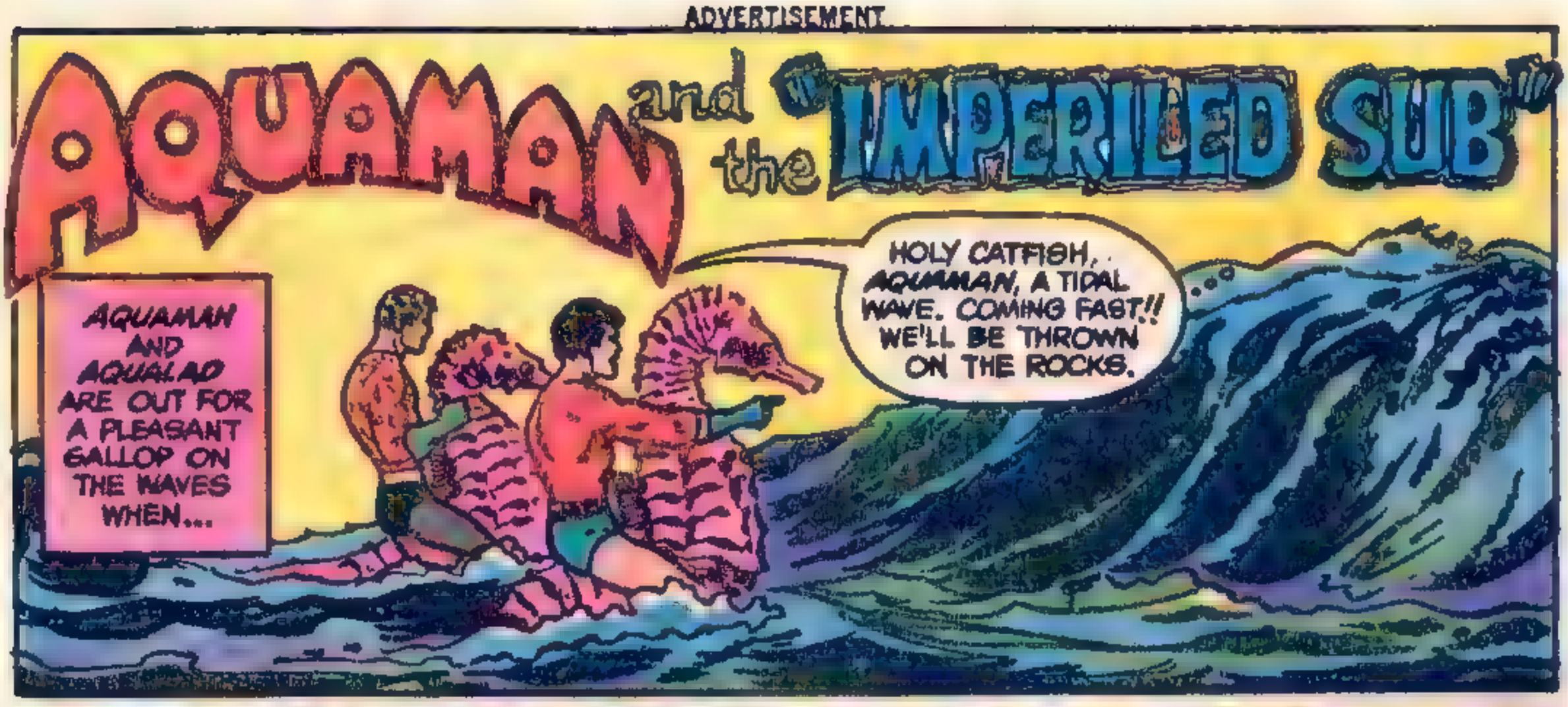

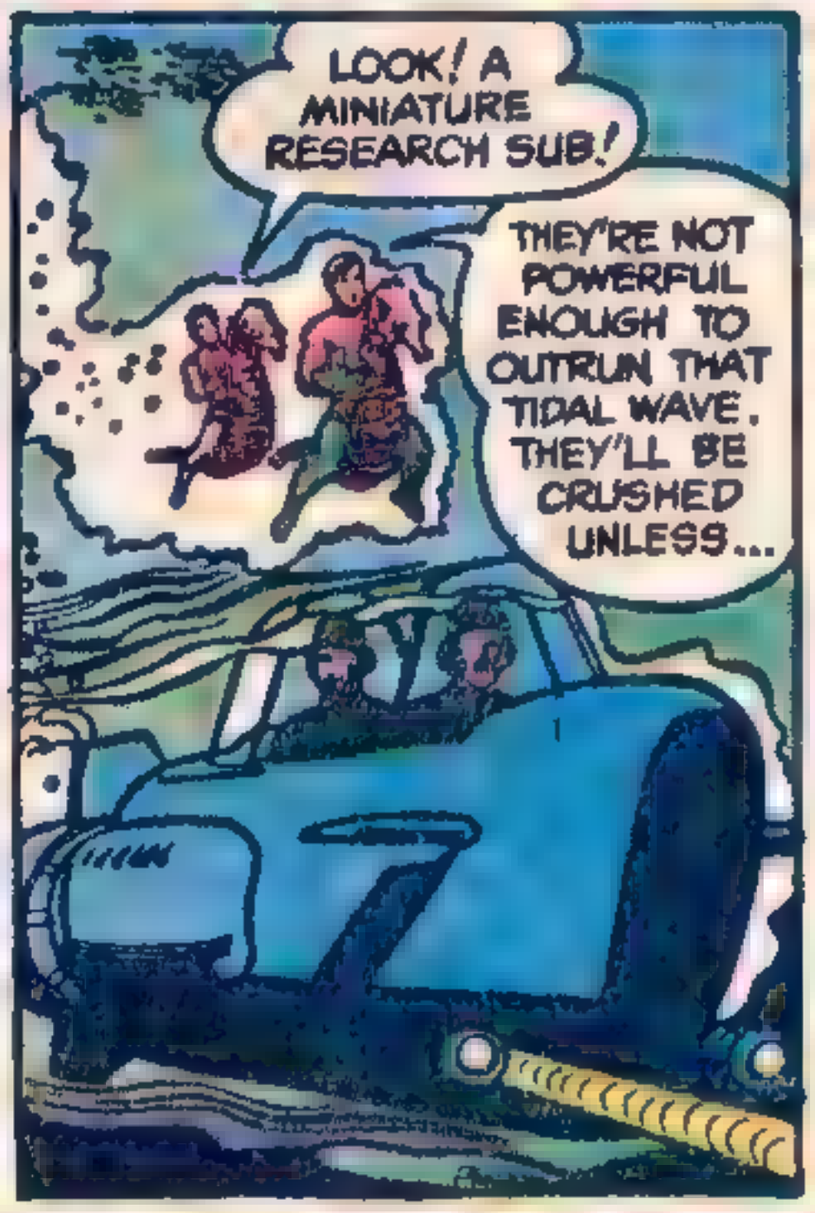

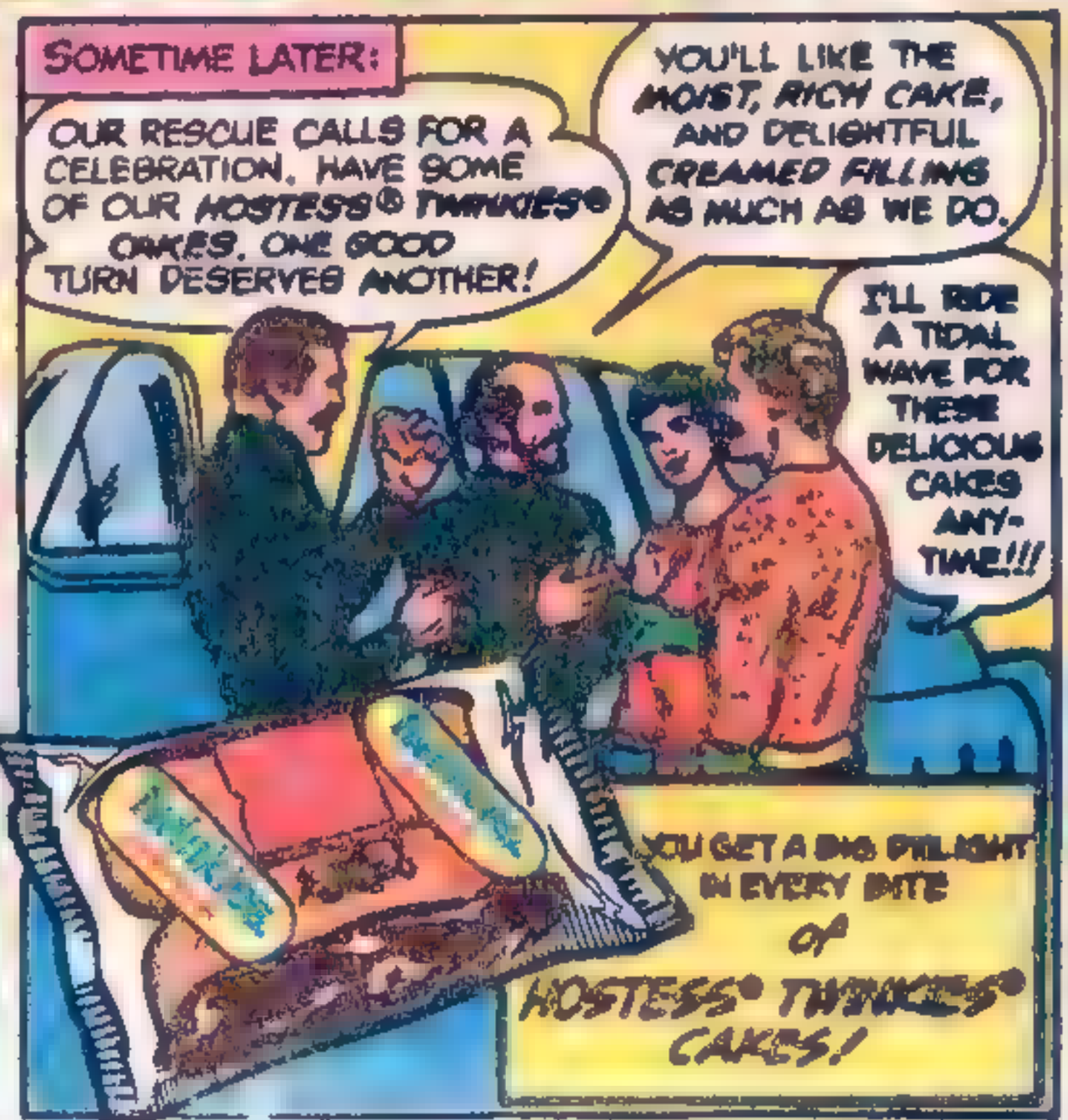

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ALL WE CAN DO IS KEEP CRISSCROSSING THE LIKELIEST *SECTORS* AND HOPE WE PICK HIM *UP!*

WAIT! W-WE'RE STARTING TO *GET* SOMETHING! *QUICKLY!* FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONAL *INDICATOR!*

THE READING IS GETTING *STRONGER!* IT *HAS* TO BE *THE CLOAK!* IT *HAS* TO BE!

INDEED, BELOW AND NOT FAR AWAY...

HA HA! BEFORE, I WAS THE SERVANT OF *SUDE*--BECAUSE SUDE HAD THE POWER TO *DESTROY* ME! BUT NOW SUDE IS *GONE*, AND *THE CLOAK*, IS STILL *HERE*--FREE AT LAST TO ACT ON OWN!

ALTHOUGH AS ANYONE CAN PLAINLY *SEE*, EVEN WHEN I AM *HERE*, I AM *NOT* COMPLETELY HERE --AT LEAST, NOT THAT ANYONE CAN *SEE!* HA HA HA! NOW I SHALL FORM *MY OWN* BAND! AND WITH IT, I SHALL RULE A SMALL CRIMINAL SECTOR ON META! A SMALL EMPIRE--SMALL PROBLEMS! HA HA!

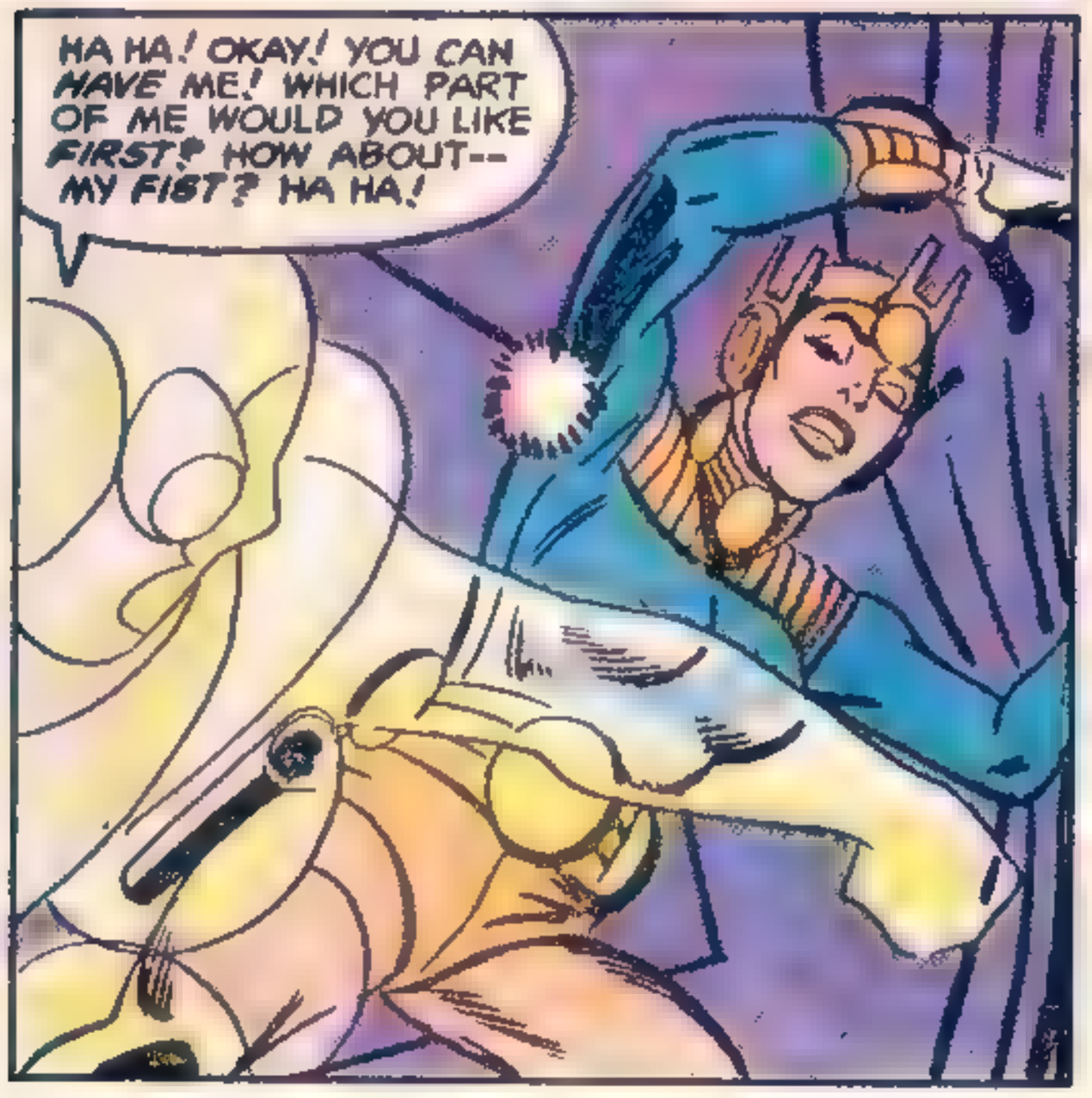
MEANWHILE, TWO ROOMS AWAY...

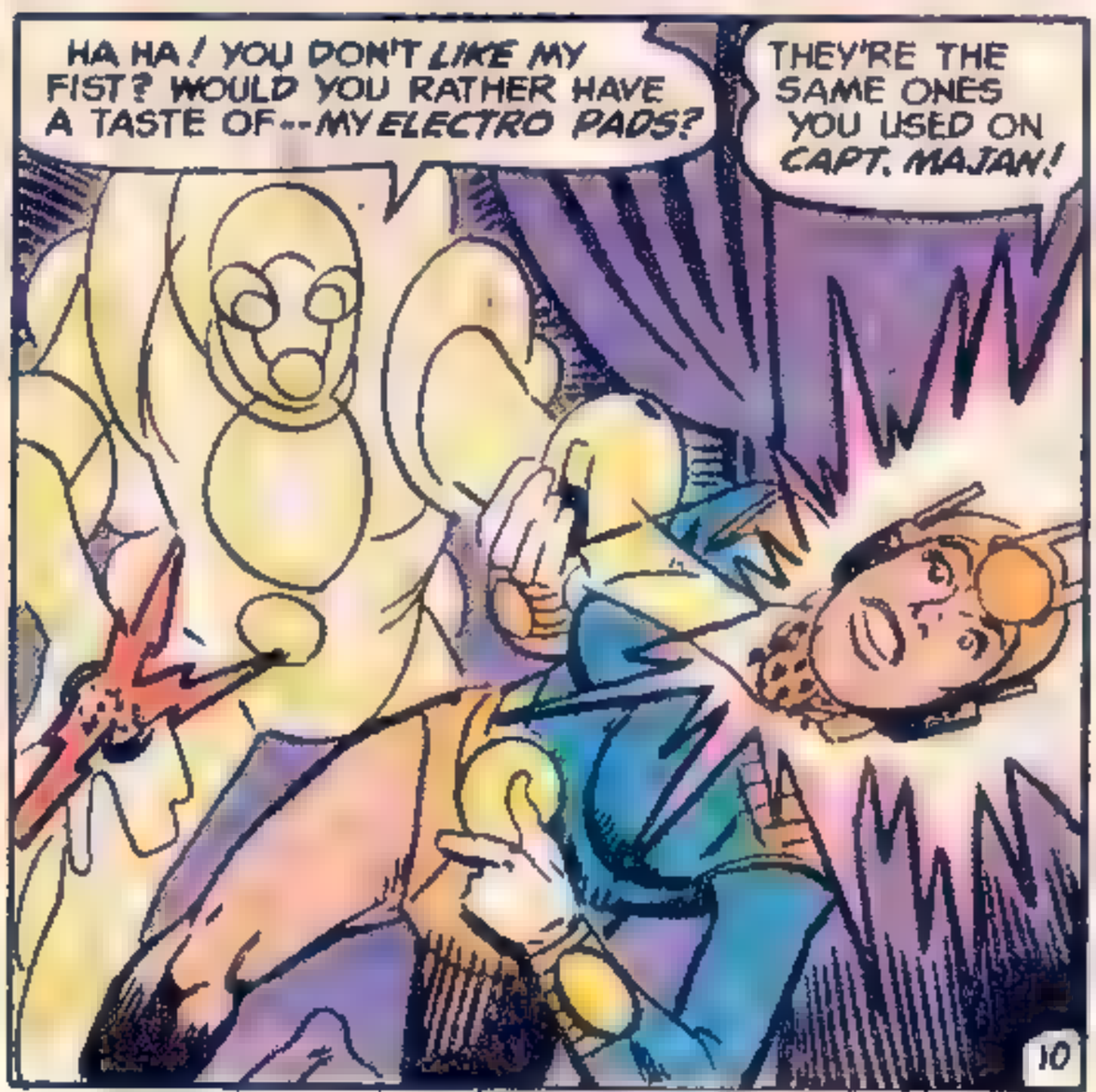
HEY! WHERE IS THAT GUY WHO TOLD US HE COULD GET US *WEALTH* AND *POWER?*

WHOEVER HE IS, THIS MEETING BETTER NOT BE HIS IDEA OF A *GAG!* I DON'T *LIKE* GAGS!

HA HA! YOU NEEDN'T BE SO *SKEPTICAL*, GENTLEMEN! IN A MOMENT, THE BENEFITS OF MY PROPOSITION WILL BE PLAINLY -HA HA- *VISIBLE* TO YOU!

HUH--!? I-IS THAT *YOU, CLOAK?* LET US *SEE* YOU!





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NO PURCHASE NECESSARY
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To enter, just fill out and mail in the entry form. You'll find more in every package of delicious milk caramel **Sugar Babies, Sugar Daddy** and **Sugar Mama.** Remember, with all these prizes your chances of winning are greater and get even better the more times you enter.

50,000 PRIZES A MONTH GIVEAWAY ENTRY FORM

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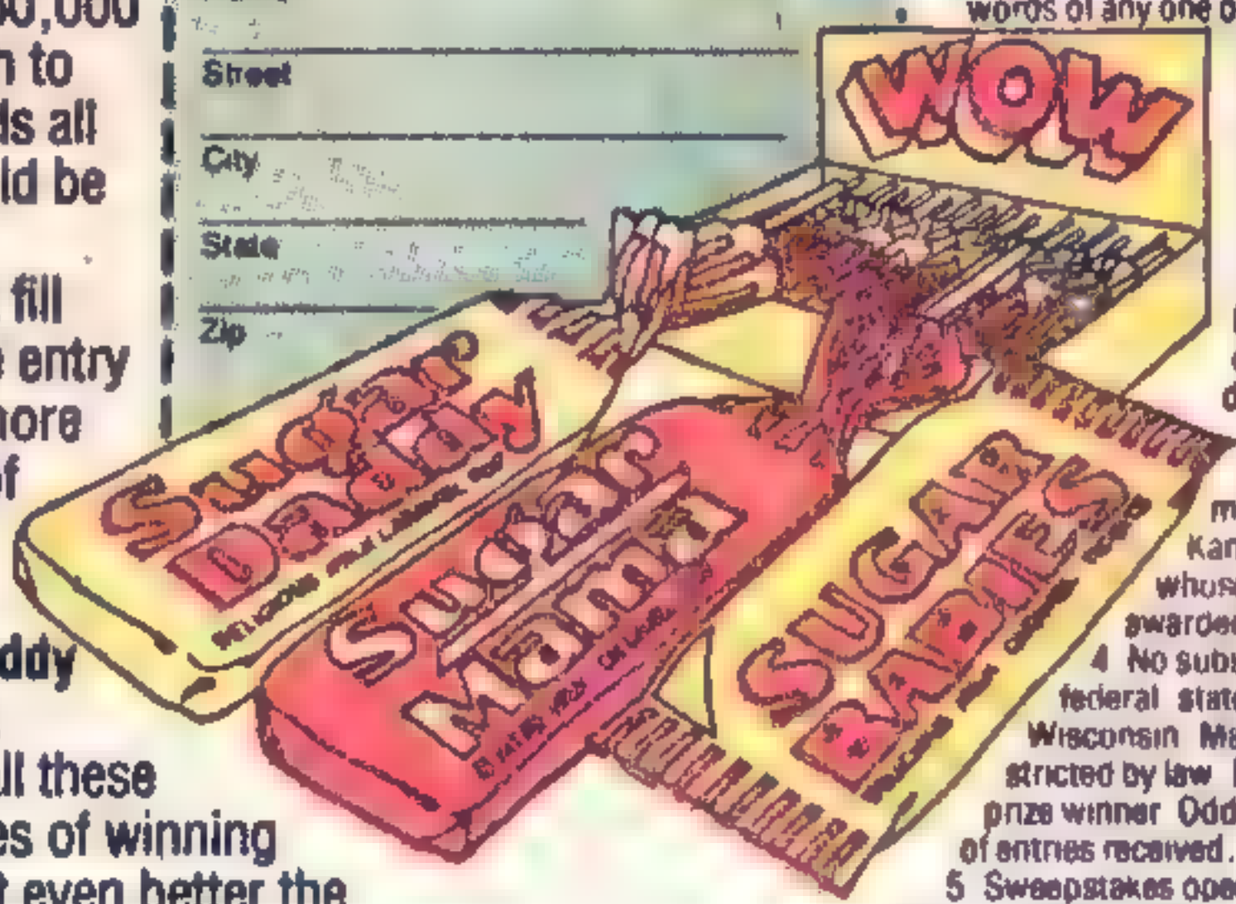

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1 **NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.** To enter print your name address and zip code on the official entry blank or on a plain 3x5 piece of paper Each entry must include the outside wrapper from either Sugar Daddy, Sugar Mama or Sugar Babies or hand print the words of any one of these products on a 3x5 piece of paper. Mail your complete entry to:

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2 Enter as often as you like, there is no limit to the number of prizes you can win, but each entry must be mailed separately and received by the last day of the month in order to be eligible for that month's drawing. The final date for receipt of all mail is December 31, 1978.

3 Fifty Thousand and Thirty (50 030) prizes will be awarded in random drawings on a monthly basis starting January 1978 by Marden-Kane Inc., an independent judging organization whose decisions are final All 600,360 prizes will be awarded by January 31, 1979.

4 No substitutes or exchanges for prizes offered All federal state and local laws apply. Void in Missouri, Wisconsin Maryland and wherever else prohibited or restricted by law Liability for taxes is the sole responsibility of the prize winner Odds of winning are dependent upon the number of entries received.

5 Sweepstakes open to US residents only except employees and their families of Nabisco, Inc , their affiliates, advertising and judging agencies.

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THE WINGED HERO WHO SOARS THROUGH SPACE--HIS KEEN EYES ALERT--HIS MIGHTY BODY TENSED TO DO BATTLE WITH THE FORCES OF EVIL?

Why does HAWKMAN

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How does HAWKMAN

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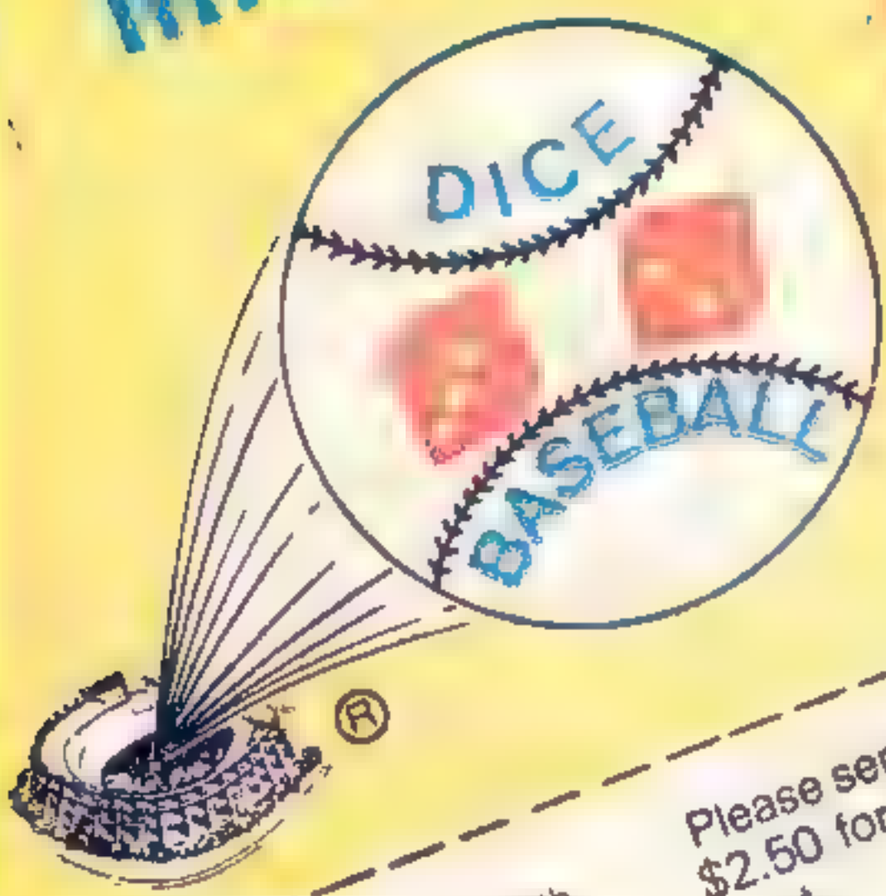

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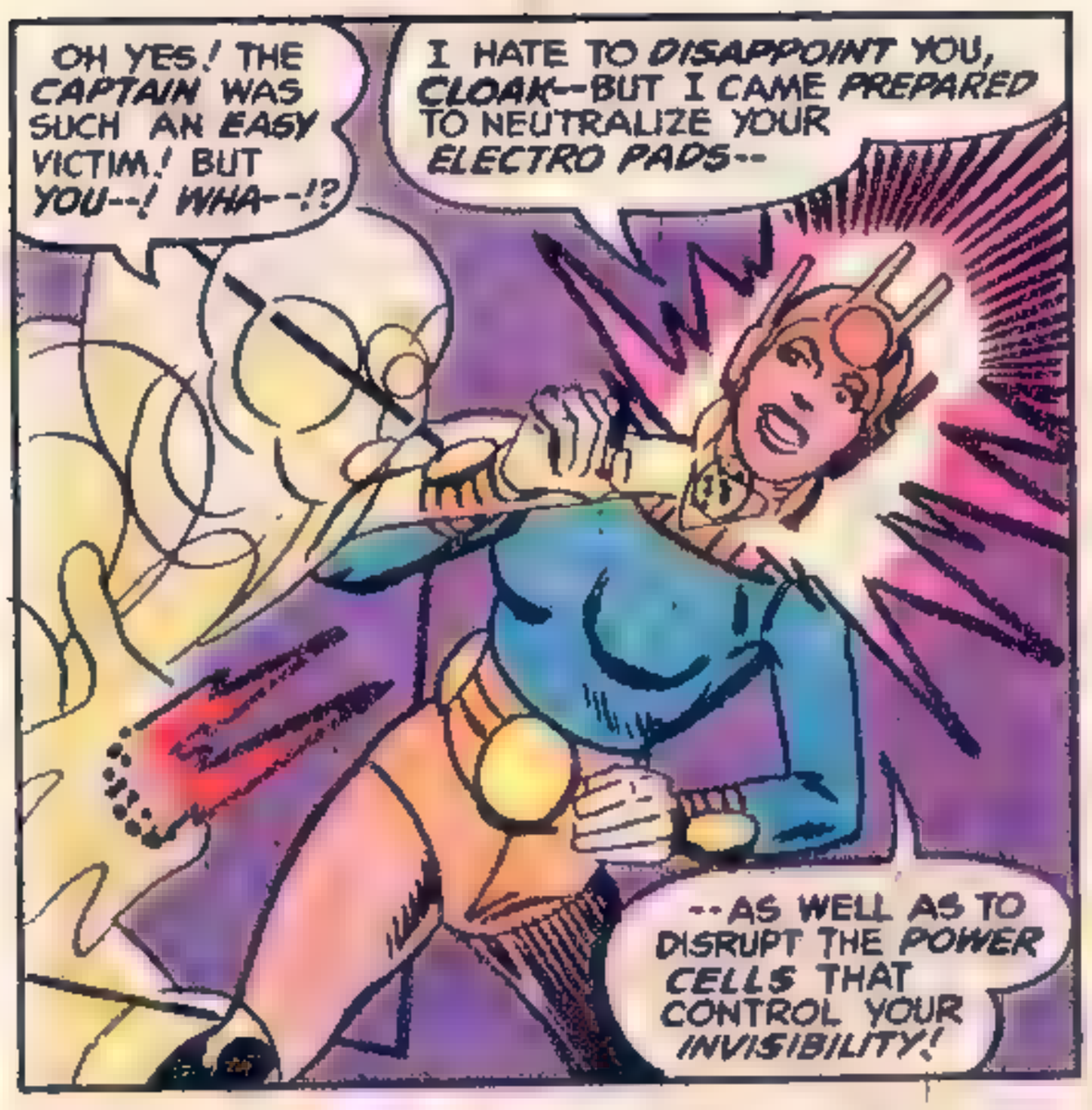
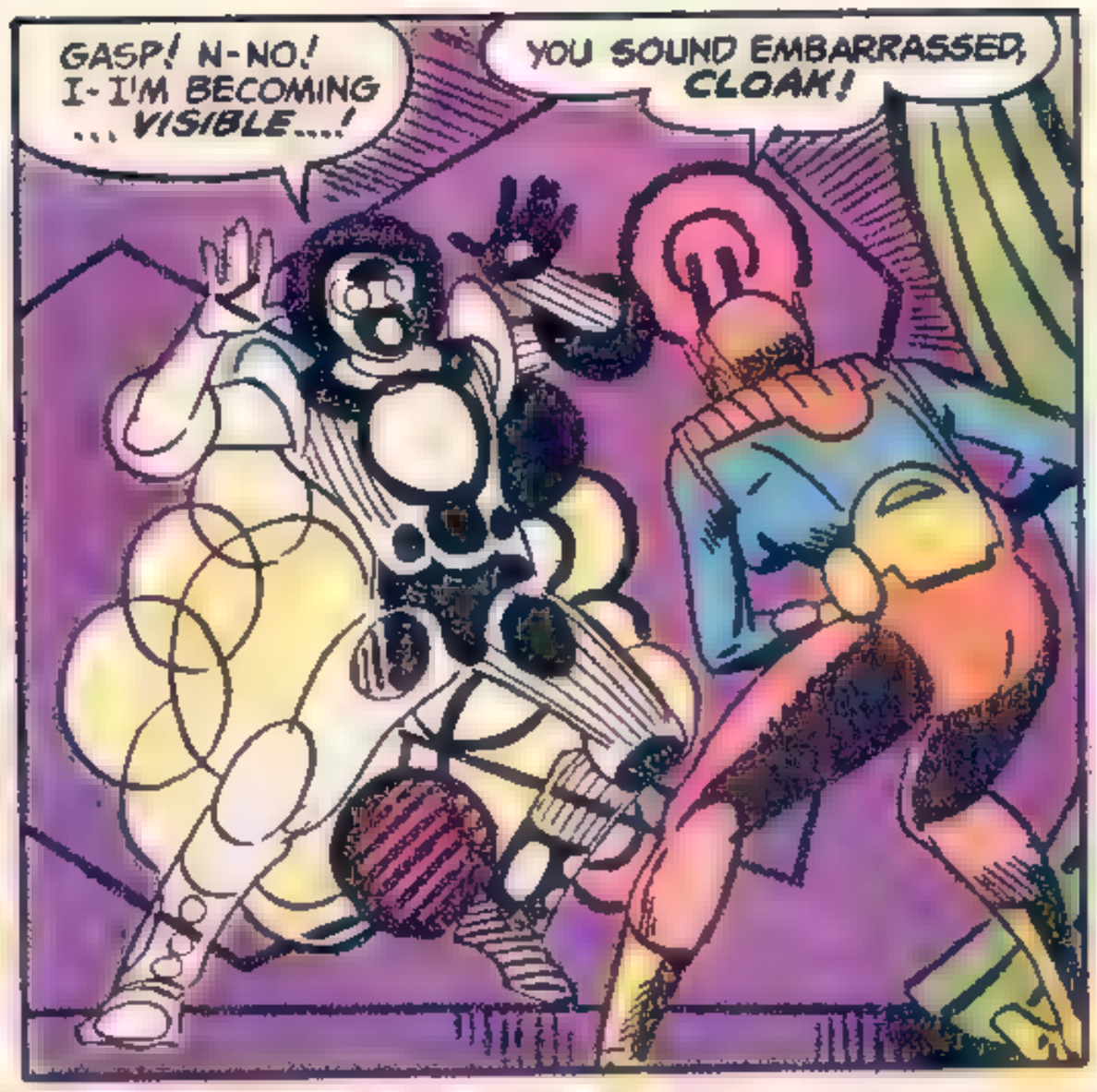
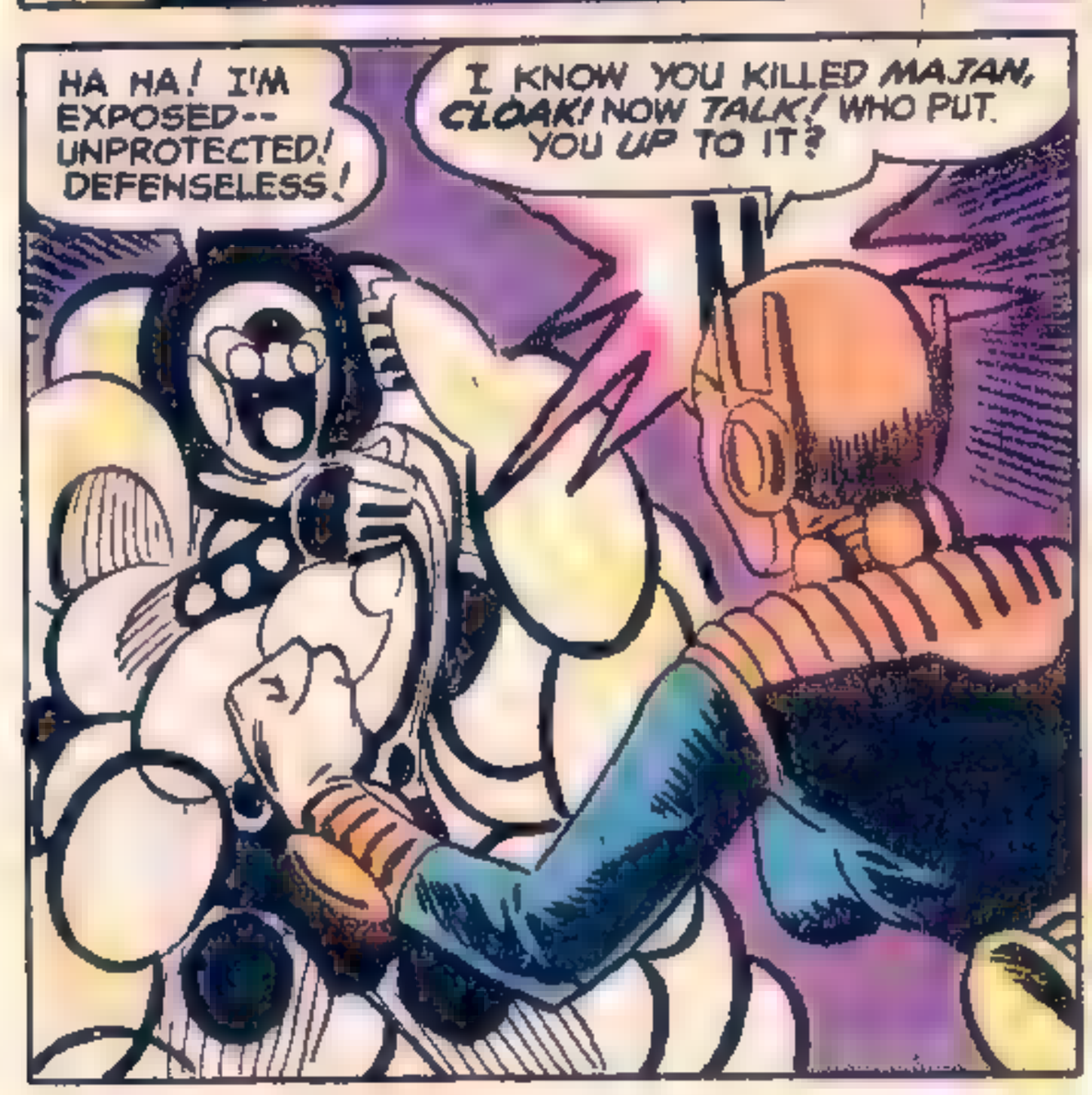
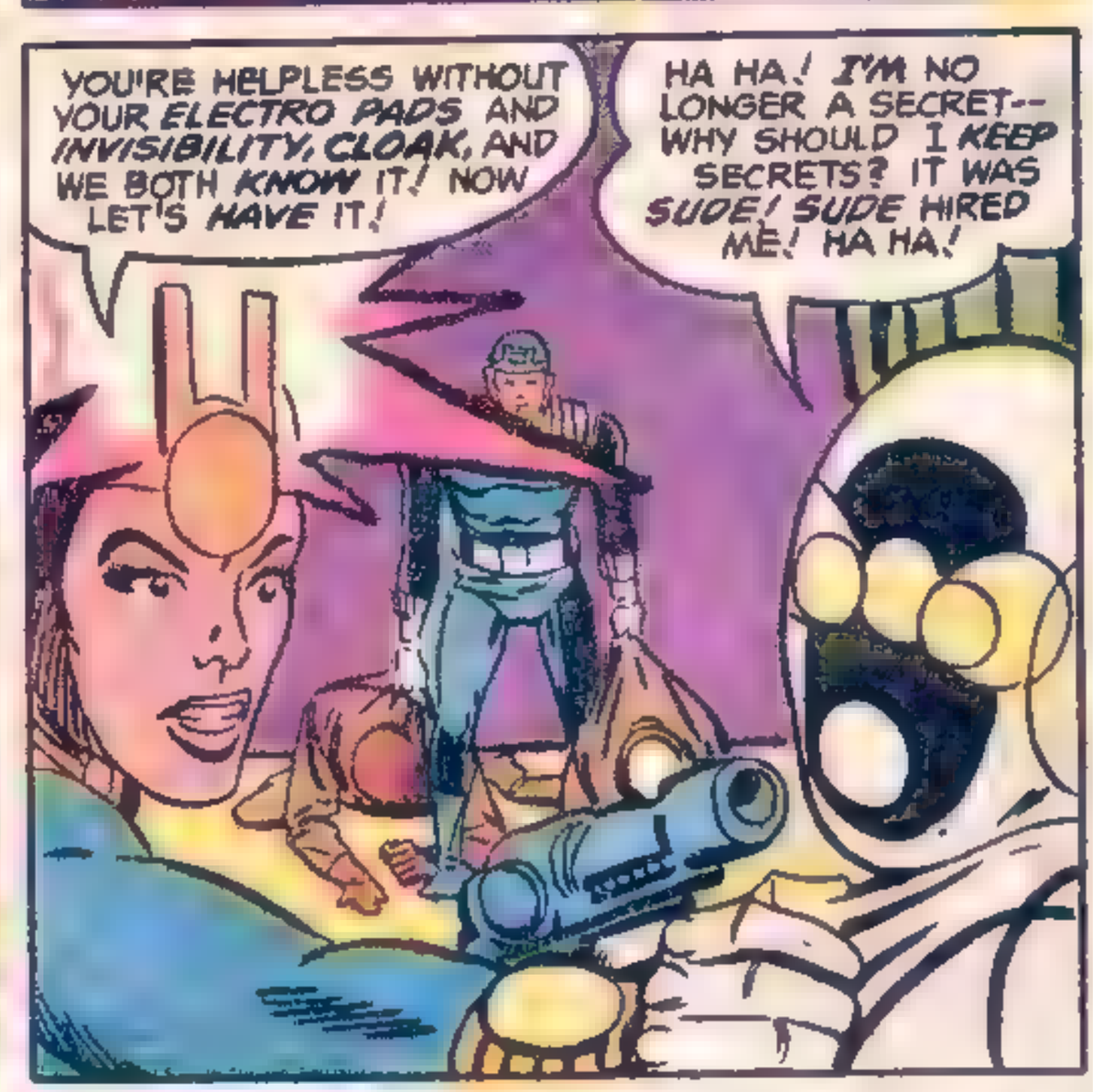
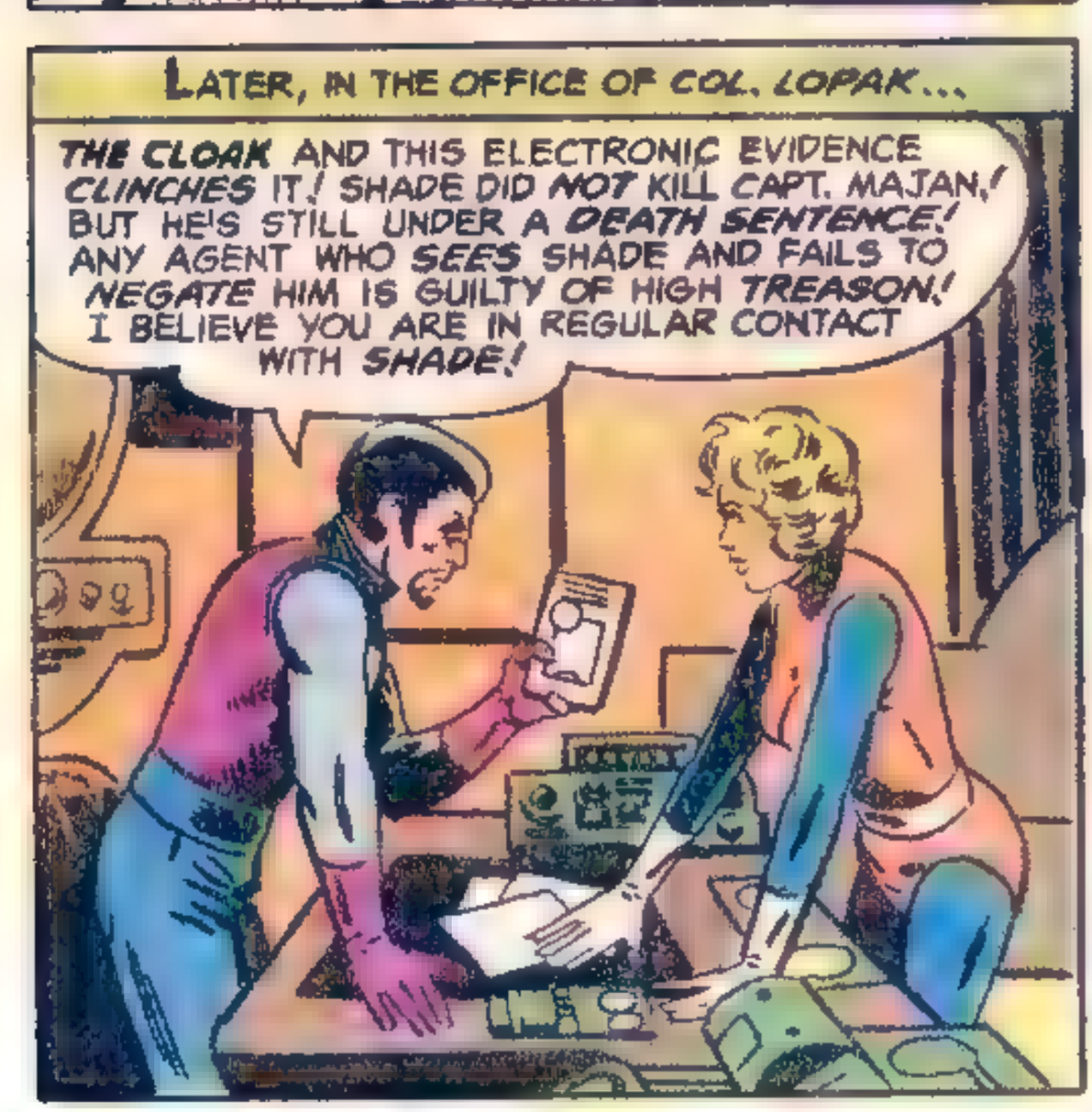

OH YES! THE CAPTAIN WAS SUCH AN EASY VICTIM! BUT YOU--! WHA--!?
I HATE TO DISAPPOINT YOU, CLOAK--BUT I CAME PREPARED TO NEUTRALIZE YOUR ELECTRO PADS--
--AS WELL AS TO DISRUPT THE POWER CELLS THAT CONTROL YOUR INVISIBILITY!

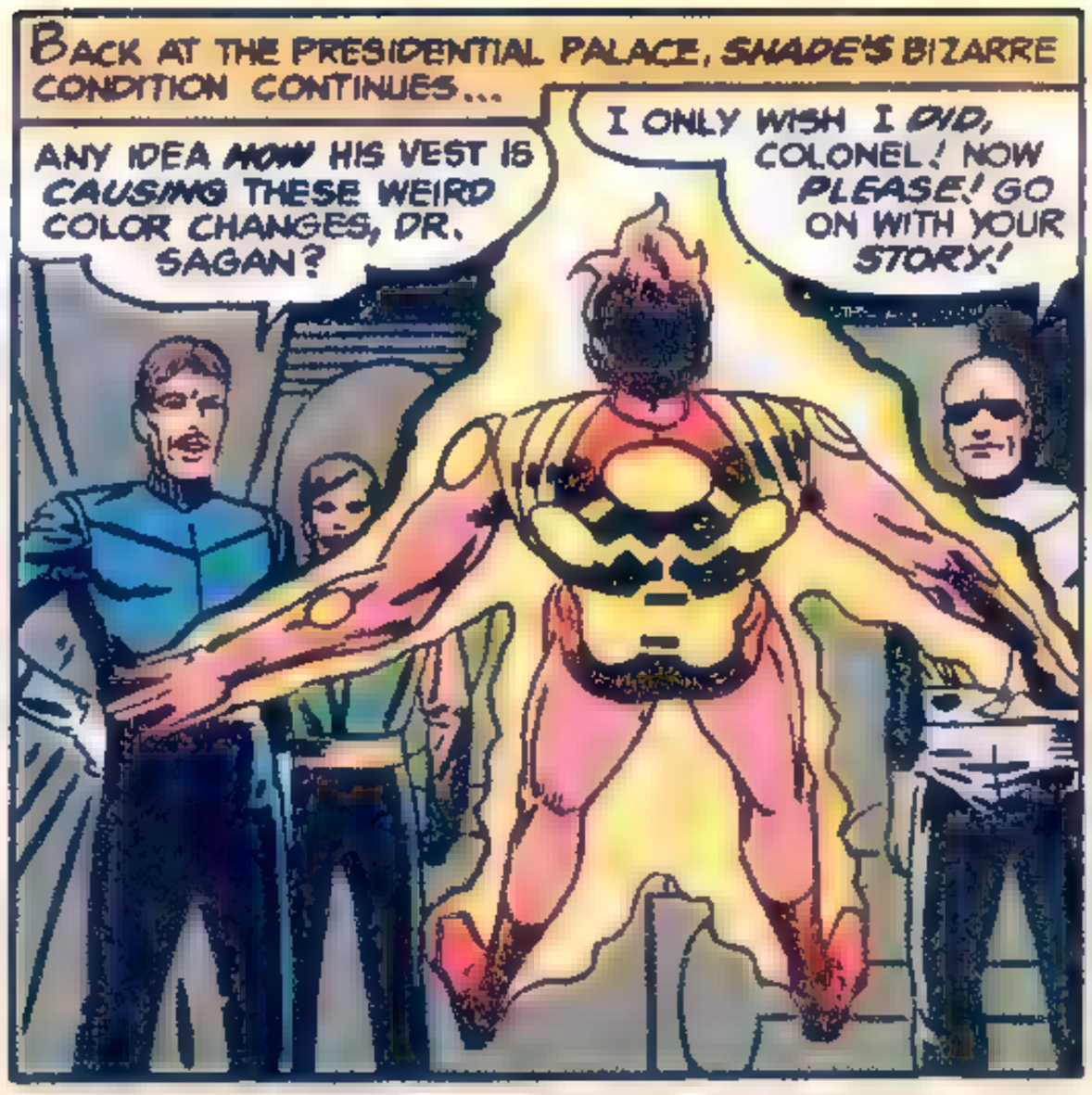

GASP! N-NO! I-I'M BECOMING ... VISIBLE....!
YOU SOUND EMBARRASSED, CLOAK!

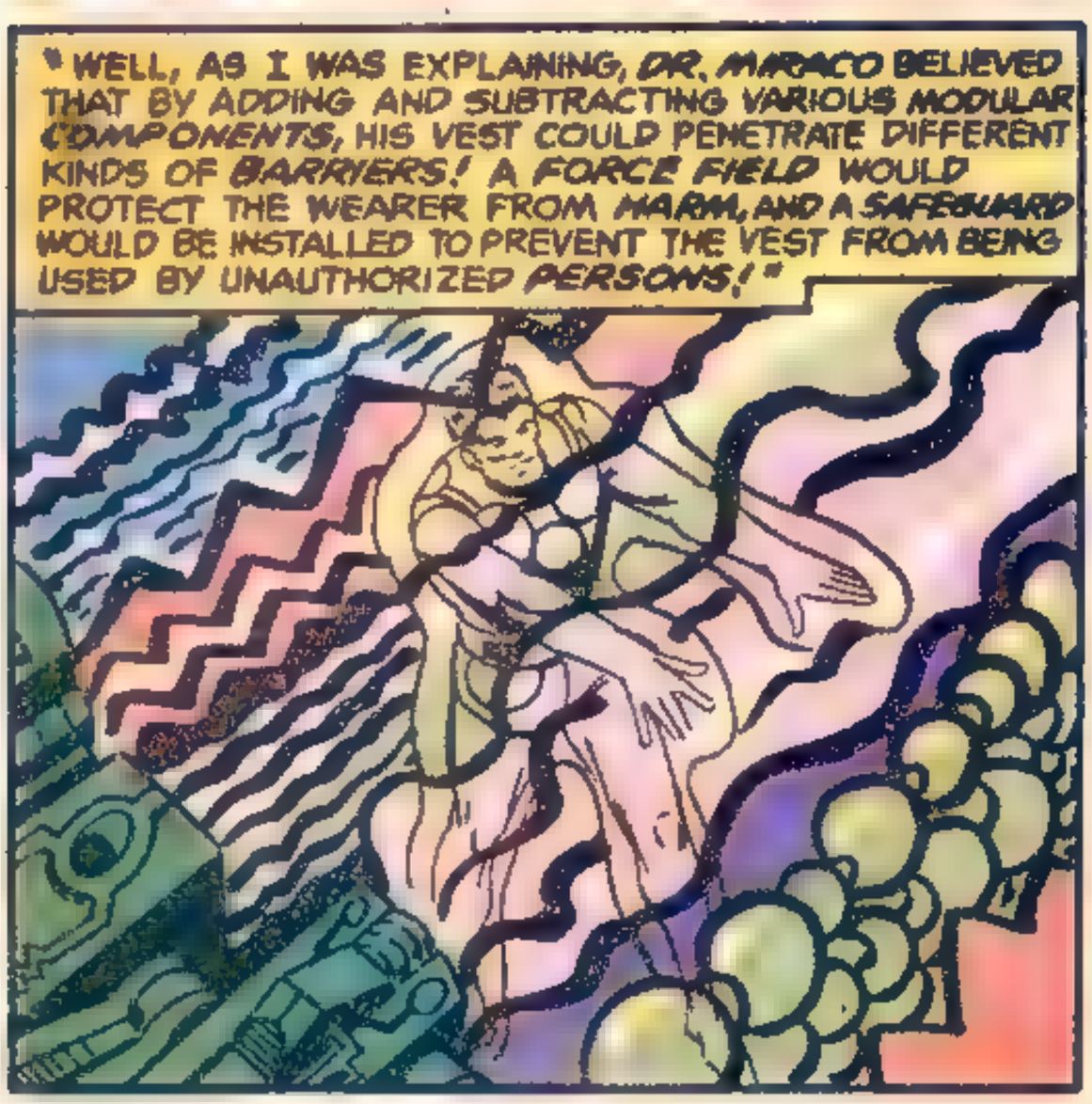

HA HA! I'M EXPOSED-- UNPROTECTED! DEFENSELESS!
I KNOW YOU KILLED MAJAN, CLOAK! NOW TALK! WHO PUT YOU UP TO IT?

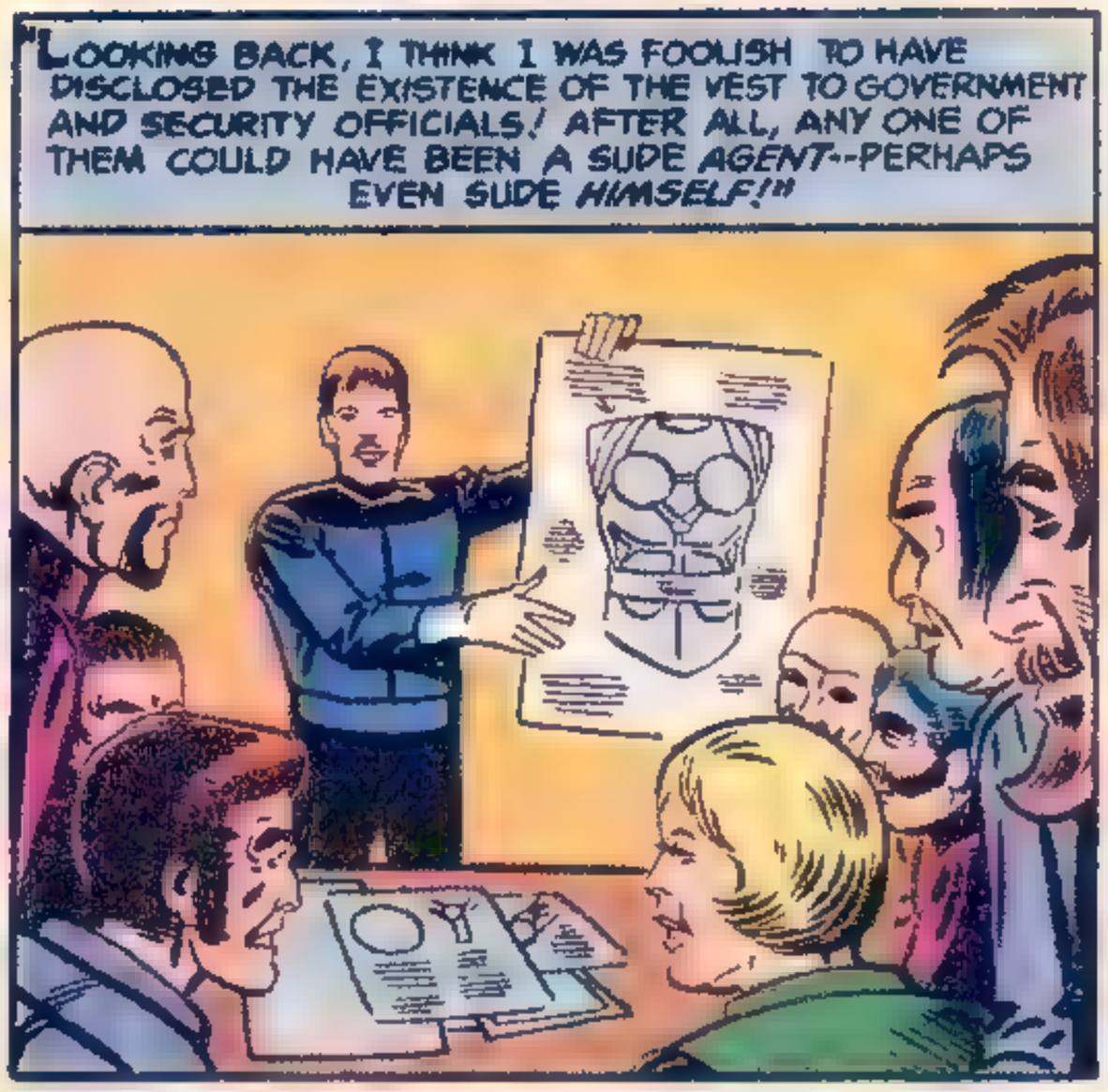

YOU'RE HELPLESS WITHOUT YOUR ELECTRO PADS AND INVISIBILITY, CLOAK, AND WE BOTH KNOW IT! NOW LET'S HAVE IT!
HA HA! I'M NO LONGER A SECRET-- WHY SHOULD I KEEP SECRETS? IT WAS SUDE! SUDE HIRED ME! HA HA!

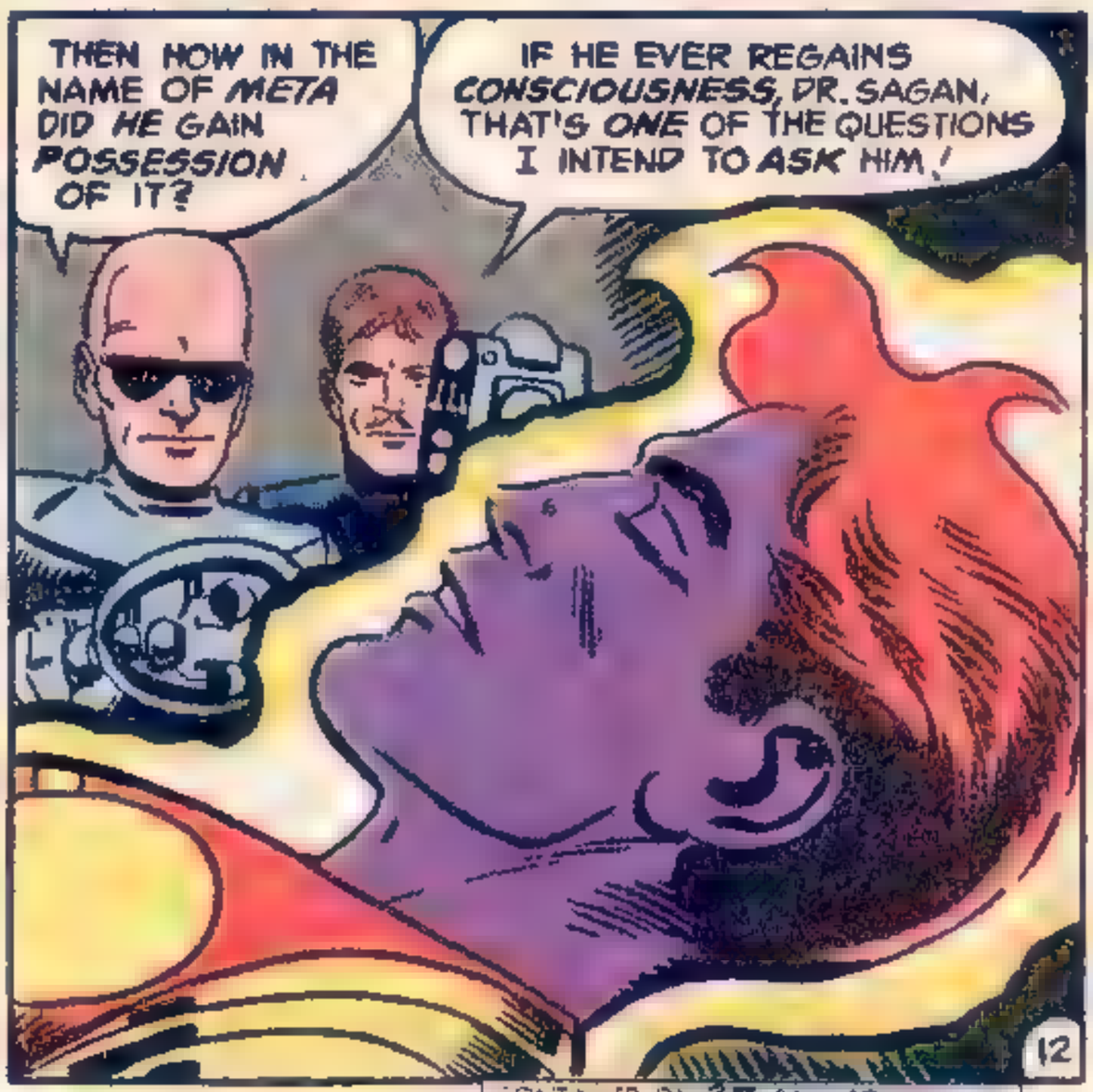

LATER, IN THE OFFICE OF COL. LOPAK...
THE CLOAK AND THIS ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE CLINCHES IT! SHADE DID NOT KILL CAPT. MAJAN! BUT HE'S STILL UNDER A DEATH SENTENCE! ANY AGENT WHO SEES SHADE AND FAILS TO NEGATE HIM IS GUILTY OF HIGH TREASON! I BELIEVE YOU ARE IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH SHADE!

WELL, AGENT LORON? WILL YOU SIGN A STATEMENT THAT YOU HAVE, AT NO TIME SINCE HIS ESCAPE, HAD ANY DEALINGS WITH SHADE? OR WOULD YOU RATHER RESIGN?
TO RESIGN WOULD BE ADMISSION OF GUILT-- AND I'M NOT GUILTY OF ANYTHING, COLONEL LOPAK! I'LL BE GLAD TO SIGN!









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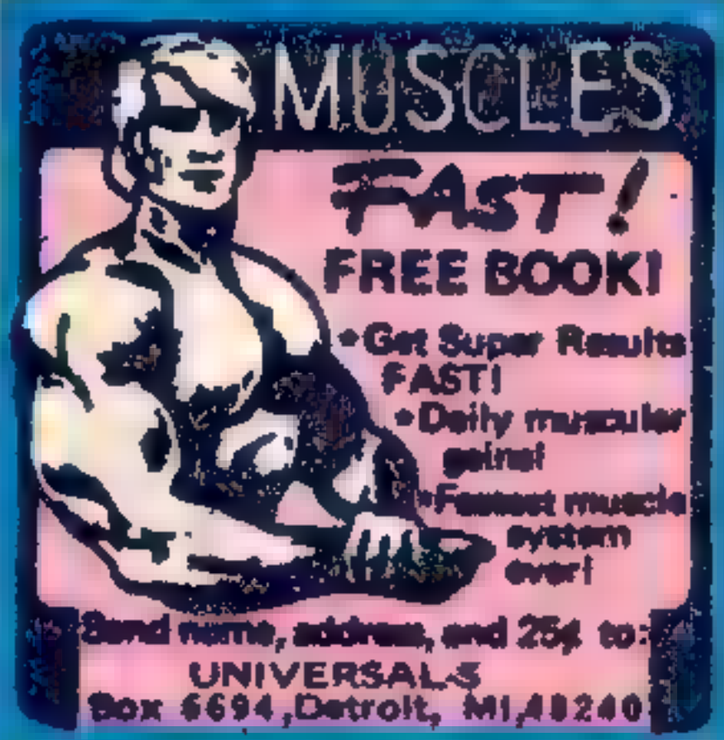

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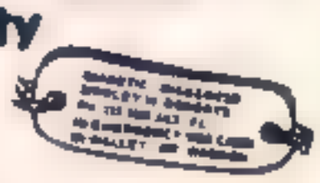

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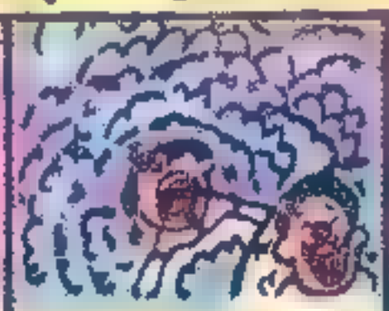
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YOU HAVE THE ZONE-CODE! NOW-- CONTACT WIZOR ON EARTH! TELL HIM TO PREPARE TO RECEIVE A TRANSPORTED METAN OFFICIAL!

THIS IS WIZOR... I AM STANDING BY TO GREET THE OFFICIAL...! THE OCCULT RESEARCH CENTER FACILITIES ARE READY TO SERVE HIM!

HE SUSPECTS NOTHING! BERO! IF YOU VALUE OUR LIVES, DO NOT FAIL IN YOUR MISSION!

I WILL NOT FAIL, DR. Z.Z.!

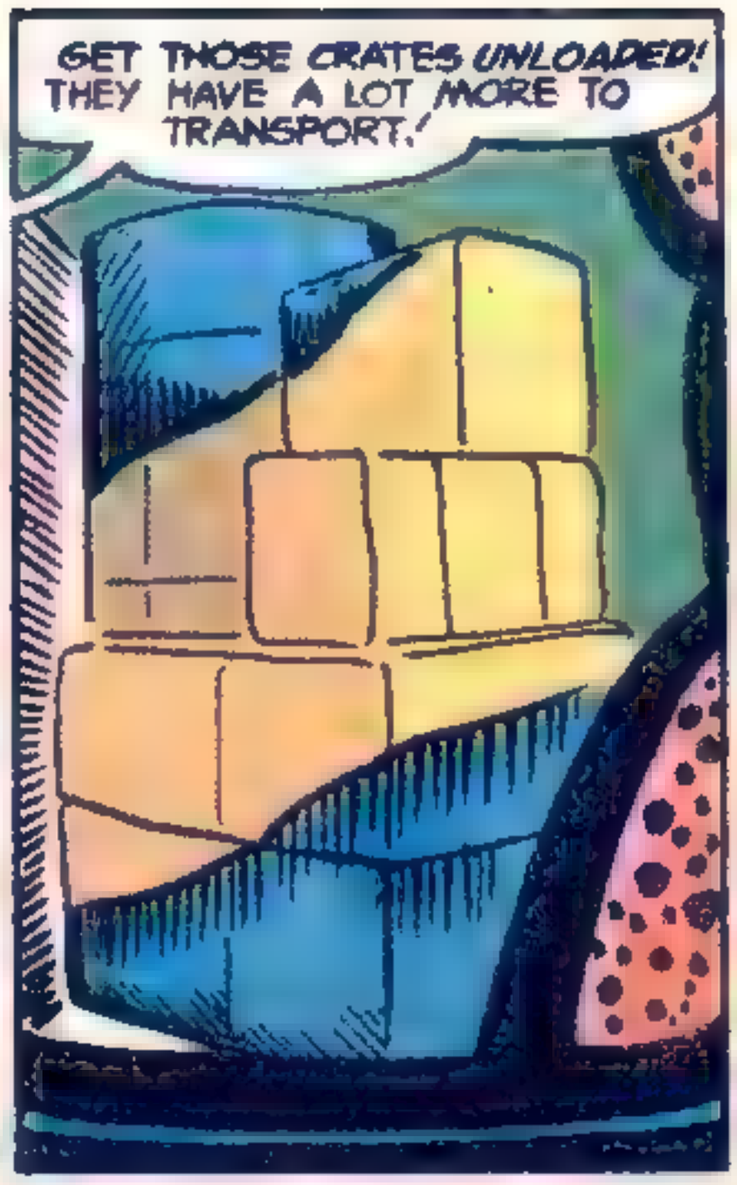
ALMOST INSTANTANEOUSLY...

ODD... THIS HIGH METAN OFFICIAL LOOKS SO YOUNG! HUMPH! MUST HAVE SOME POLITICAL PULL...

DON'T LOOK SO PUZZLED, WIZOR! WE'RE TAKING OVER! NOW STAND BACK! OTHERS ARE WAITING TO FOLLOW ME AS SOON AS THEY RECEIVE MY SIGNAL!

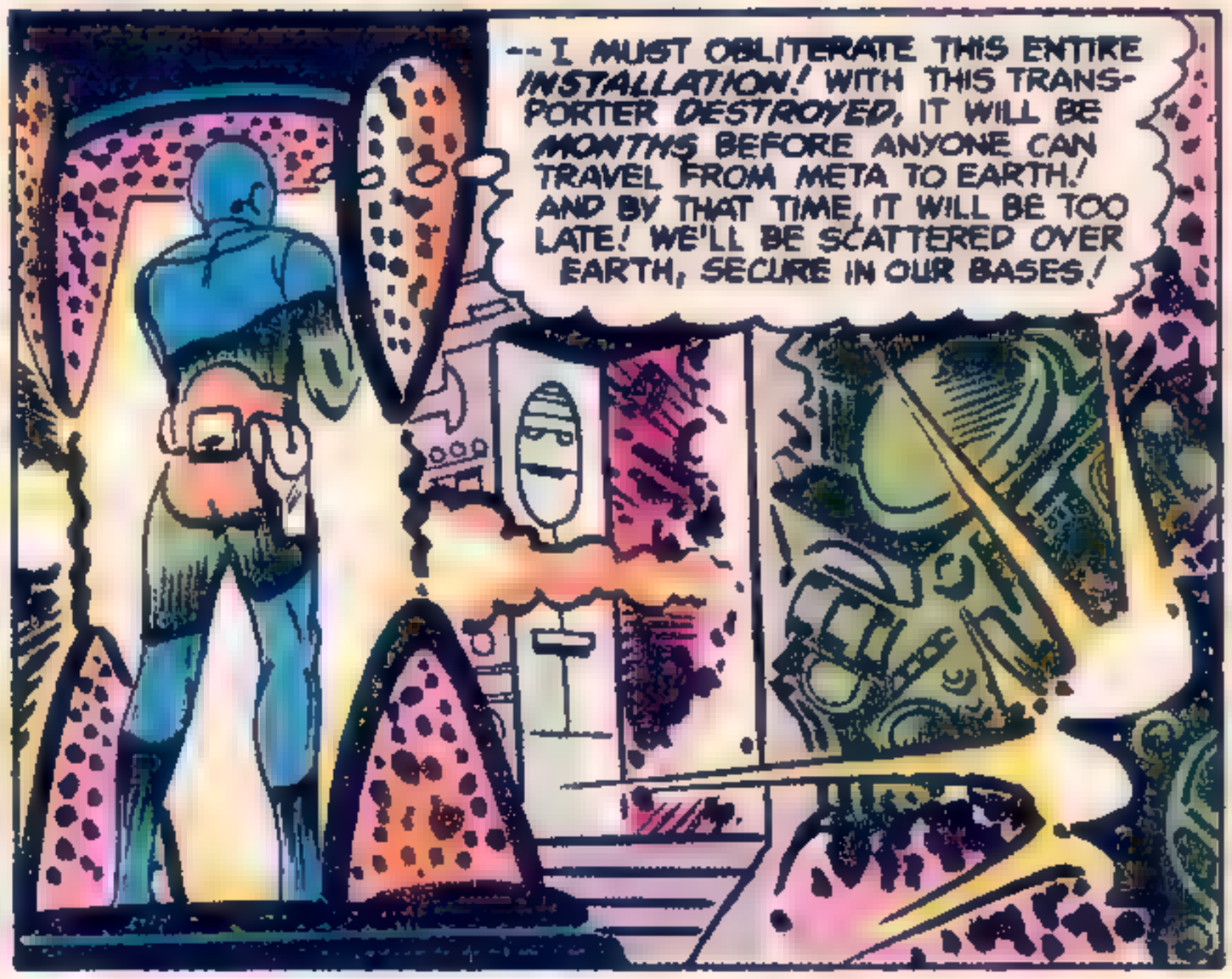
WHAT TH--!?

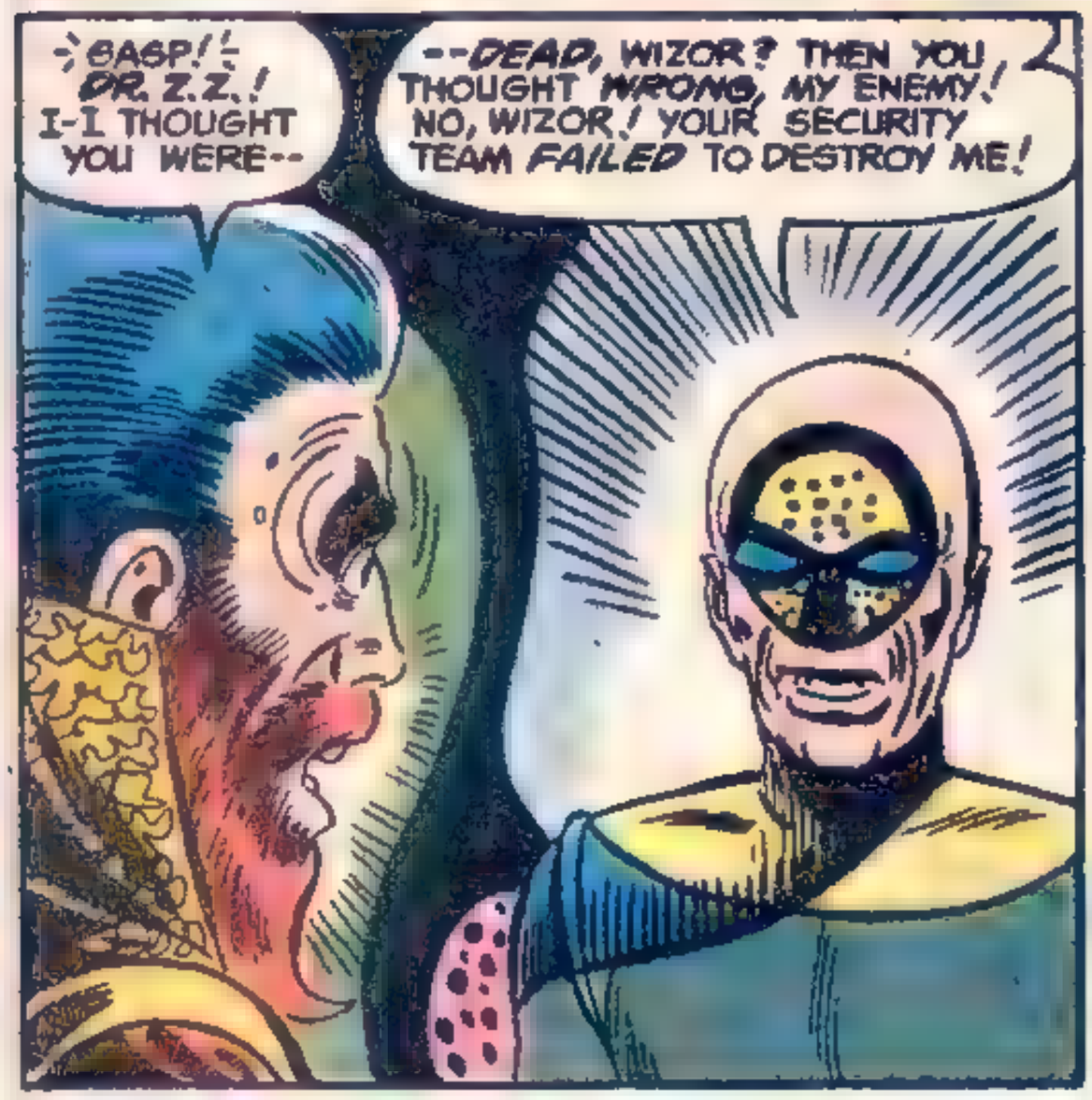
THAT'S ENOUGH PUPILS, FOR NOW! BEGIN SENDING THE EQUIPMENT!

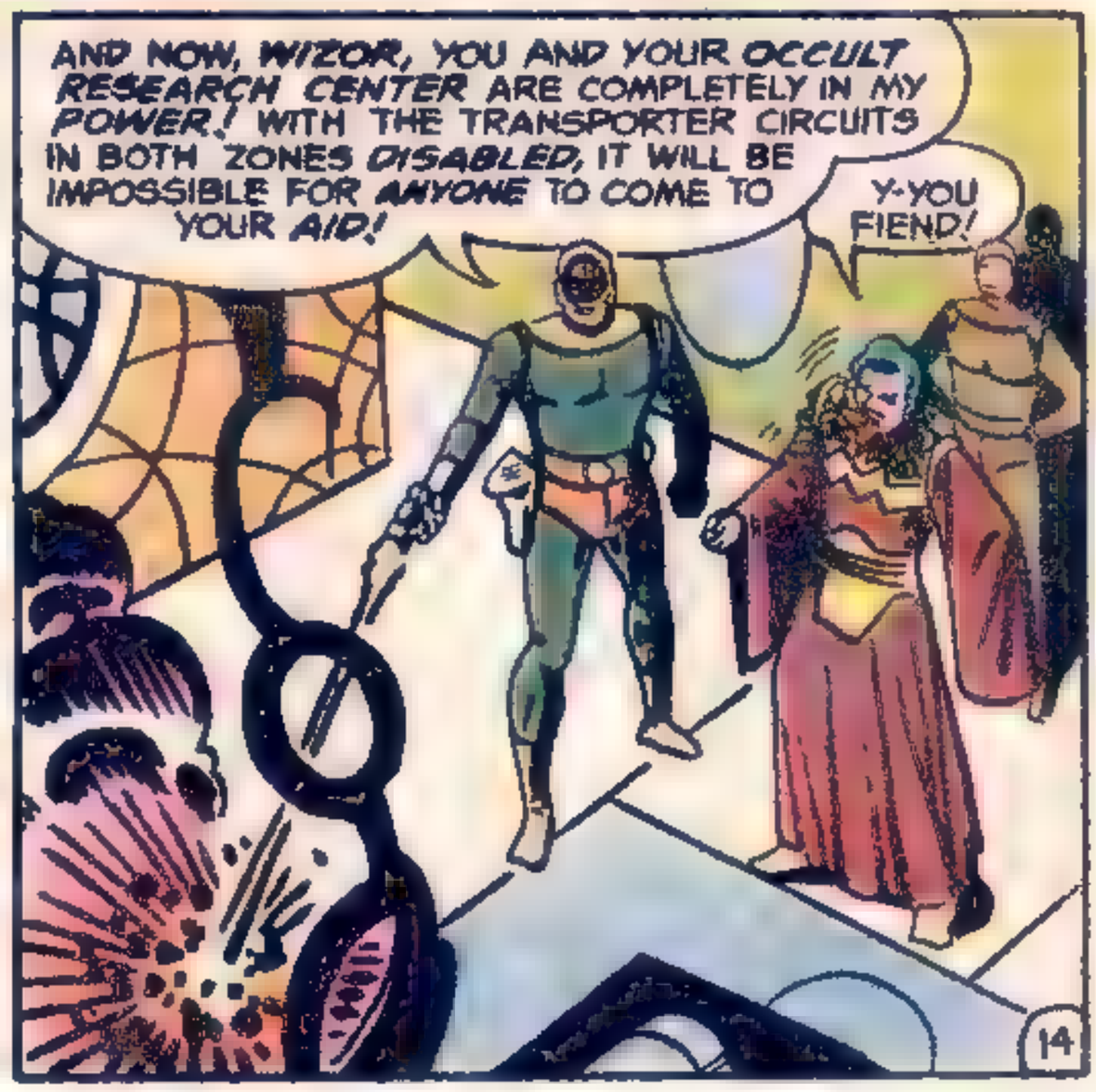

GET THOSE CRATES UNLOADED! THEY HAVE A LOT MORE TO TRANSPORT!

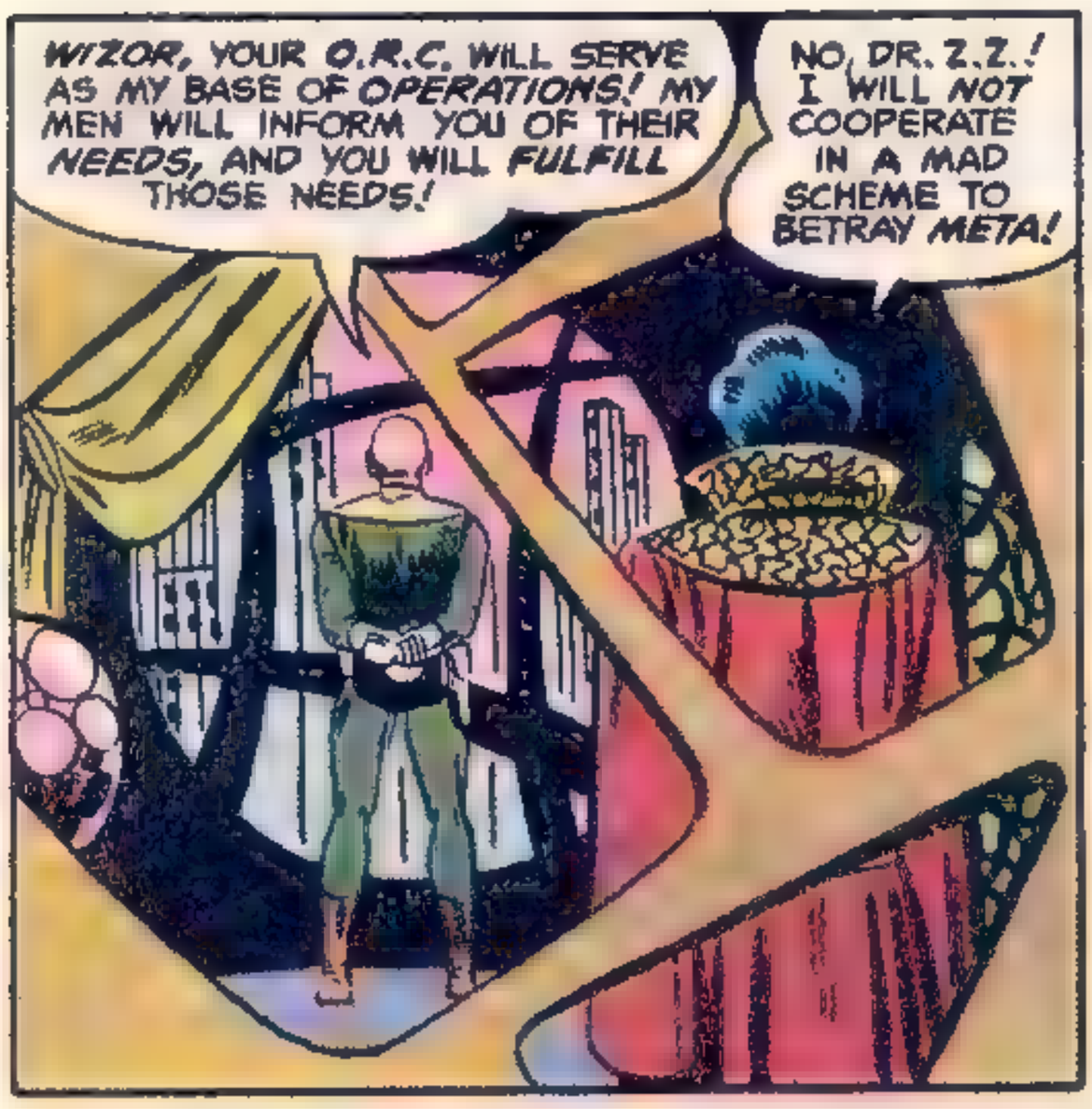
GREAT FIRE! WH-WHAT'S GOING ON BACK ON META? WH-WHO COULD POSSIBLY BE BEHIND THIS... THIS INSANITY?

ALL IS IN READINESS! I AM THE LAST OF MY ORGANIZATION TO MAKE THE TRANSPORTER-JOURNEY TO EARTH! BUT FIRST--


--I MUST OBLITERATE THIS ENTIRE INSTALLATION! WITH THIS TRANSPORTER DESTROYED, IT WILL BE MONTHS BEFORE ANYONE CAN TRAVEL FROM META TO EARTH! AND BY THAT TIME, IT WILL BE TOO LATE! WE'LL BE SCATTERED OVER EARTH, SECURE IN OUR BASES!


GASP! DR. Z.Z.! I-I THOUGHT YOU WERE--
--DEAD, WIZOR? THEN YOU THOUGHT WRONG, MY ENEMY! NO, WIZOR! YOUR SECURITY TEAM FAILED TO DESTROY ME!


AND NOW, WIZOR, YOU AND YOUR OCCULT RESEARCH CENTER ARE COMPLETELY IN MY POWER! WITH THE TRANSPORTER CIRCUITS IN BOTH ZONES DISABLED, IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANYONE TO COME TO YOUR AID!
Y-YOU FIEND!

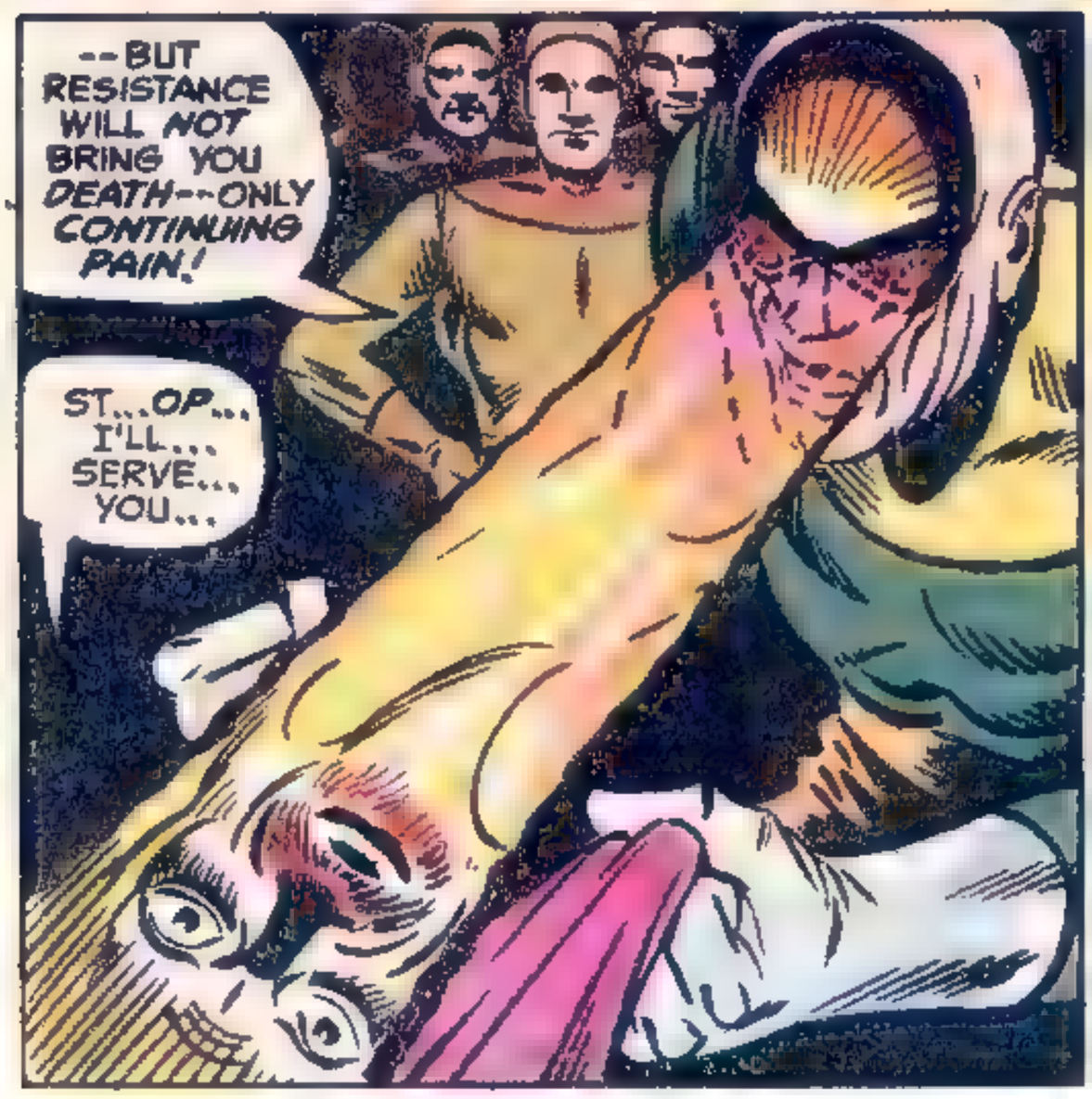

WIZOR, YOUR O.R.C. WILL SERVE AS MY BASE OF OPERATIONS! MY MEN WILL INFORM YOU OF THEIR NEEDS, AND YOU WILL FULFILL THOSE NEEDS!
NO, DR. Z.Z.! I WILL NOT COOPERATE IN A MAD SCHEME TO BETRAY META!

A NOBLE SENTIMENT, WIZOR! BUT BEFORE I'M THROUGH WITH YOU, YOU WILL SERVE ME!
AND THEN YOU'LL KILL ME ANYWAY, YOU PSYCHOPATH!

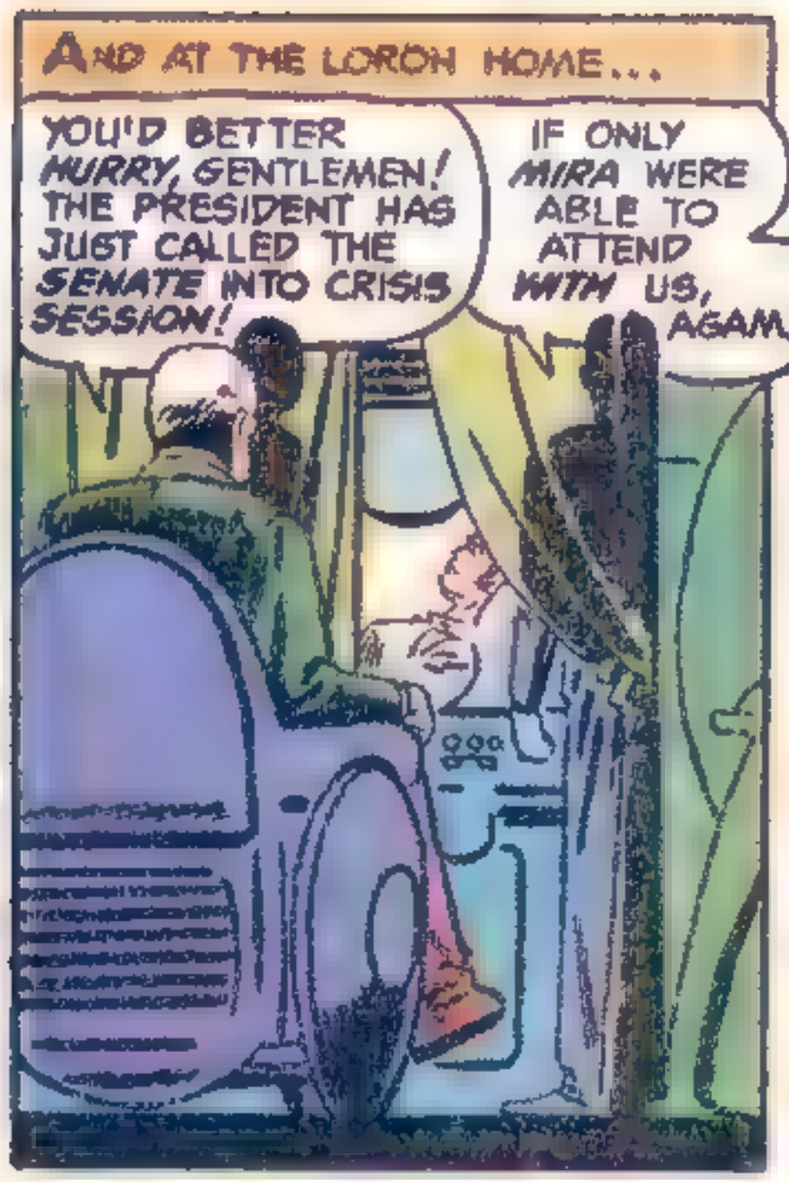
YOU CANNOT ANGER ME WITH WORDS, WIZOR! I AM NOT MAD! TO RULE IS A PART OF LIFE! AND NOW I AM DETERMINED TO BE THE RULER!

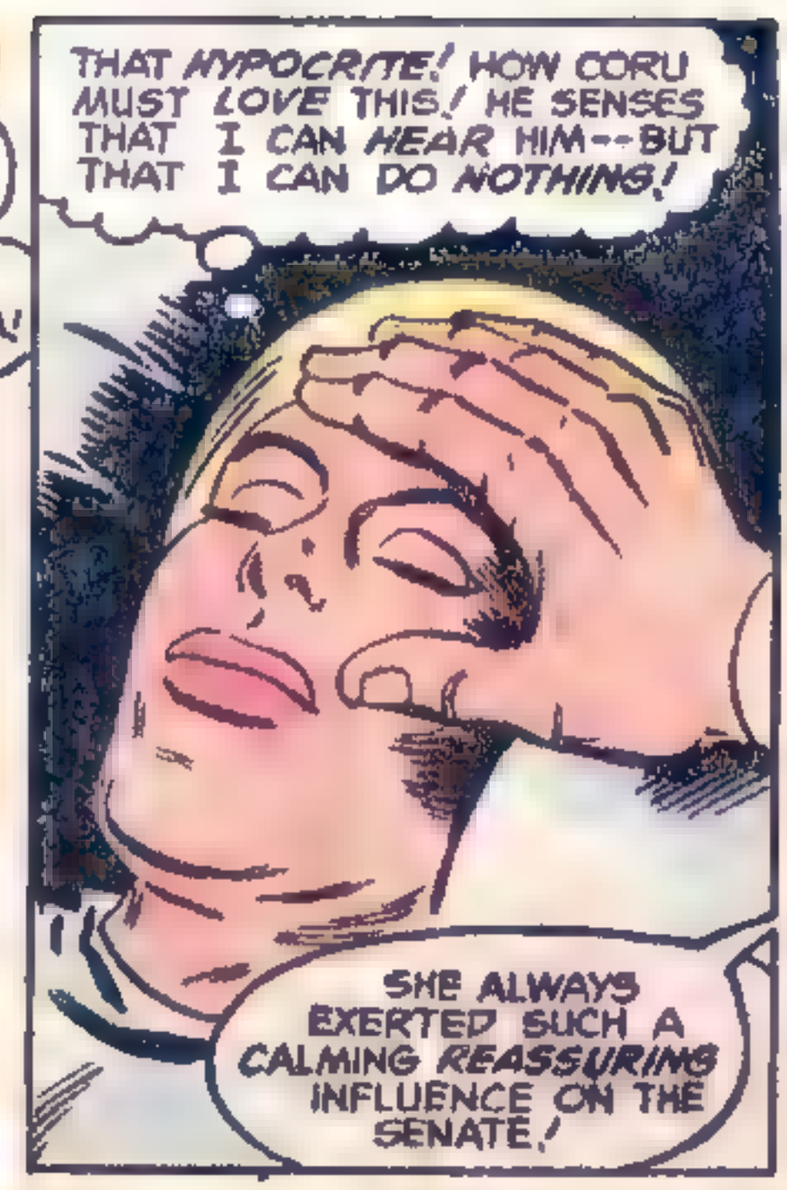
I WILL GIVE YOU A DEMONSTRATION OF WHY YOU WILL BE THE OBEDIENT SERVANT UNDER MY RULE! EXPERIENCE THE PAIN, WIZOR!

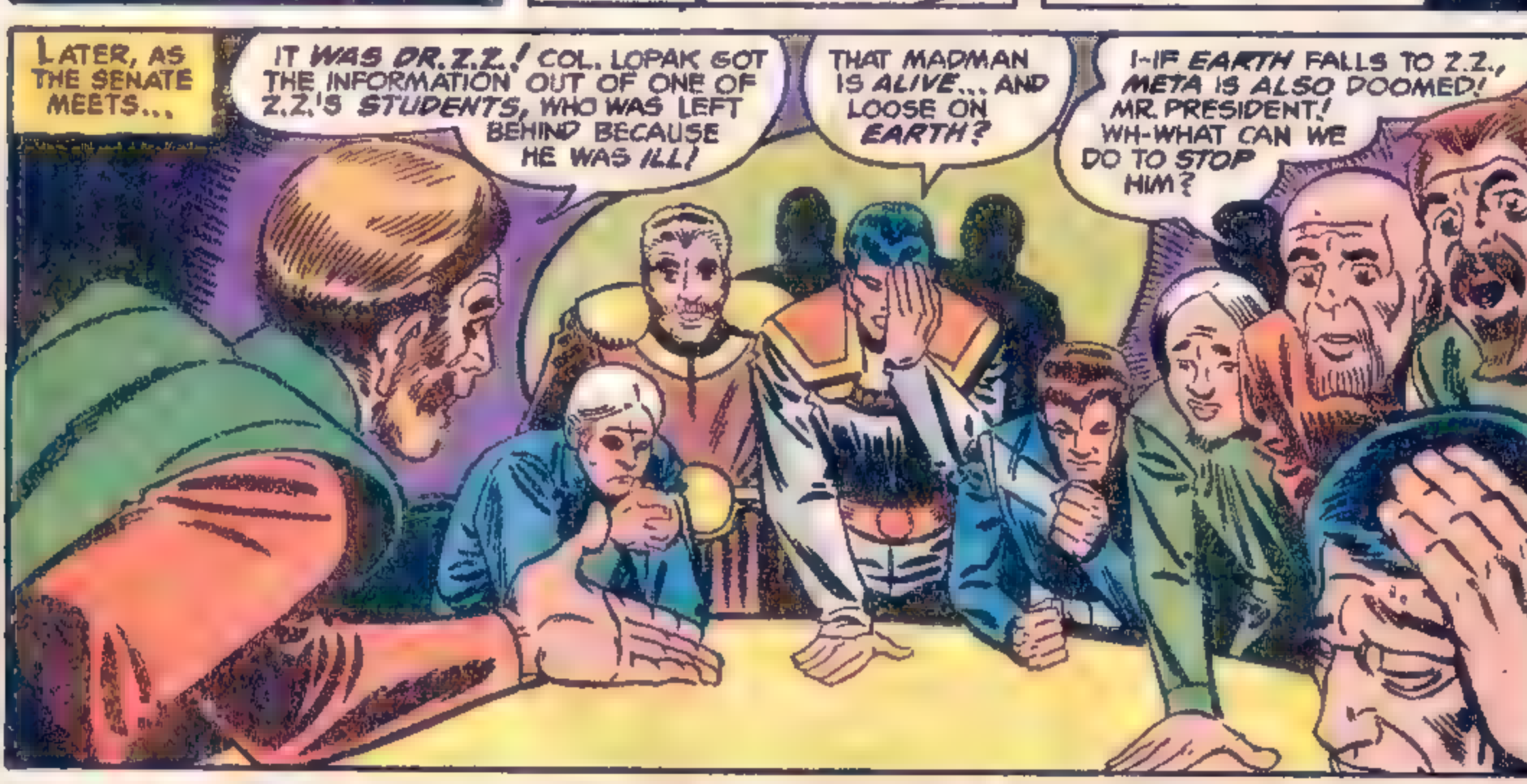
AND YOU WILL OBEY ME, WIZOR--BECAUSE YOU CANNOT STOP ME! YOU'LL HOPE THAT SOMEHOW YOU WILL BRING ABOUT MY DOWNFALL--

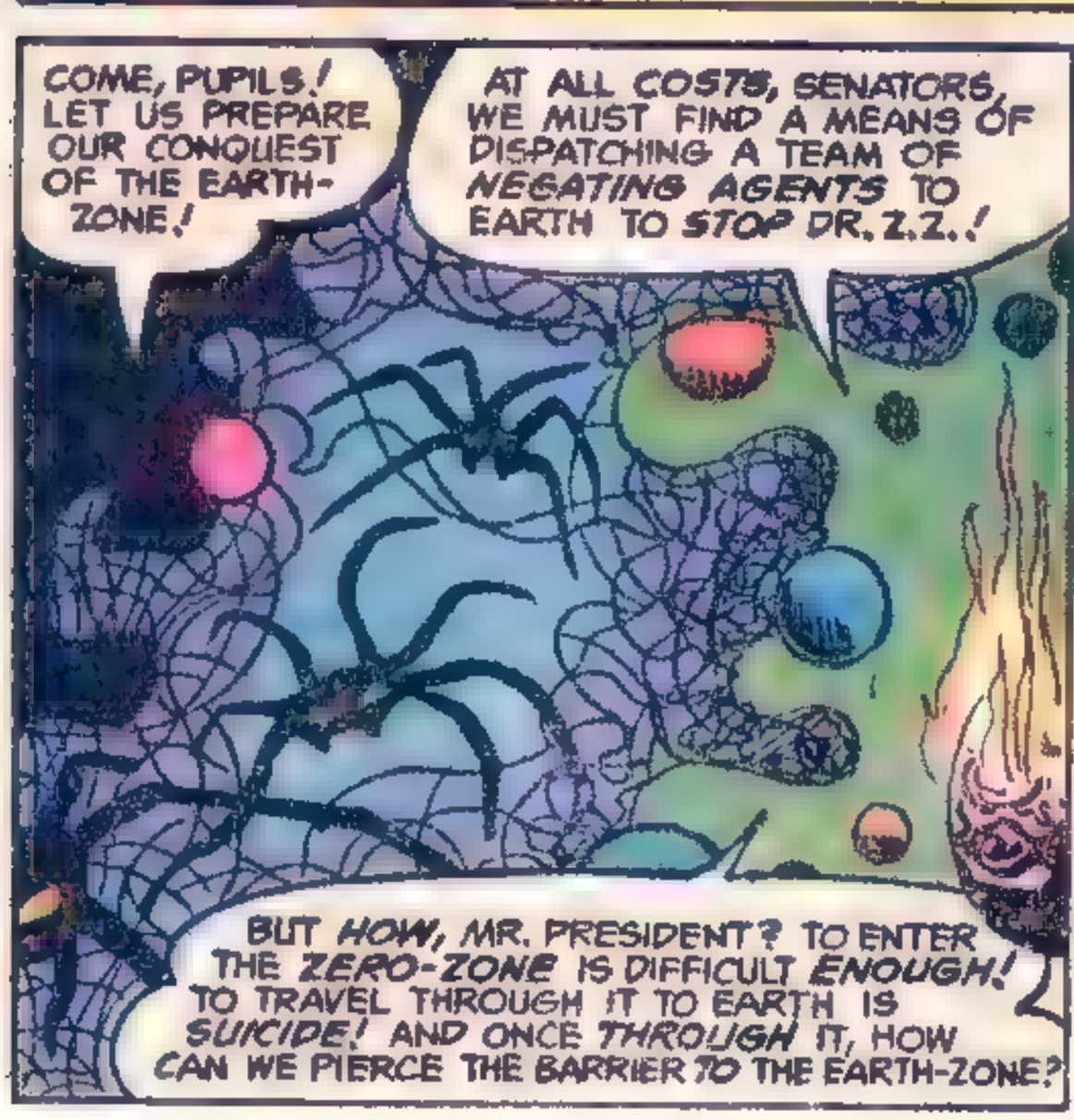

--BUT RESISTANCE WILL NOT BRING YOU DEATH--ONLY CONTINUING PAIN!
ST...OP... I'LL... SERVE... YOU...

WHILE BACK ON META...
Y-YOU SAY THAT DR. Z.Z.--! GREAT META, COL. LOPAK! D-DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS MEANS? I-I MUST CALL THE SENATE INTO EMERGENCY SESSION AT ONCE!
I'VE ALREADY PUT OUT A CRISIS CALL, MR. PRESIDENT! THE MEMBERS ARE ASSEMBLING!









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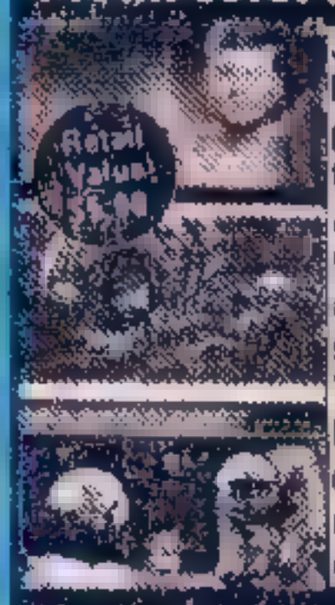

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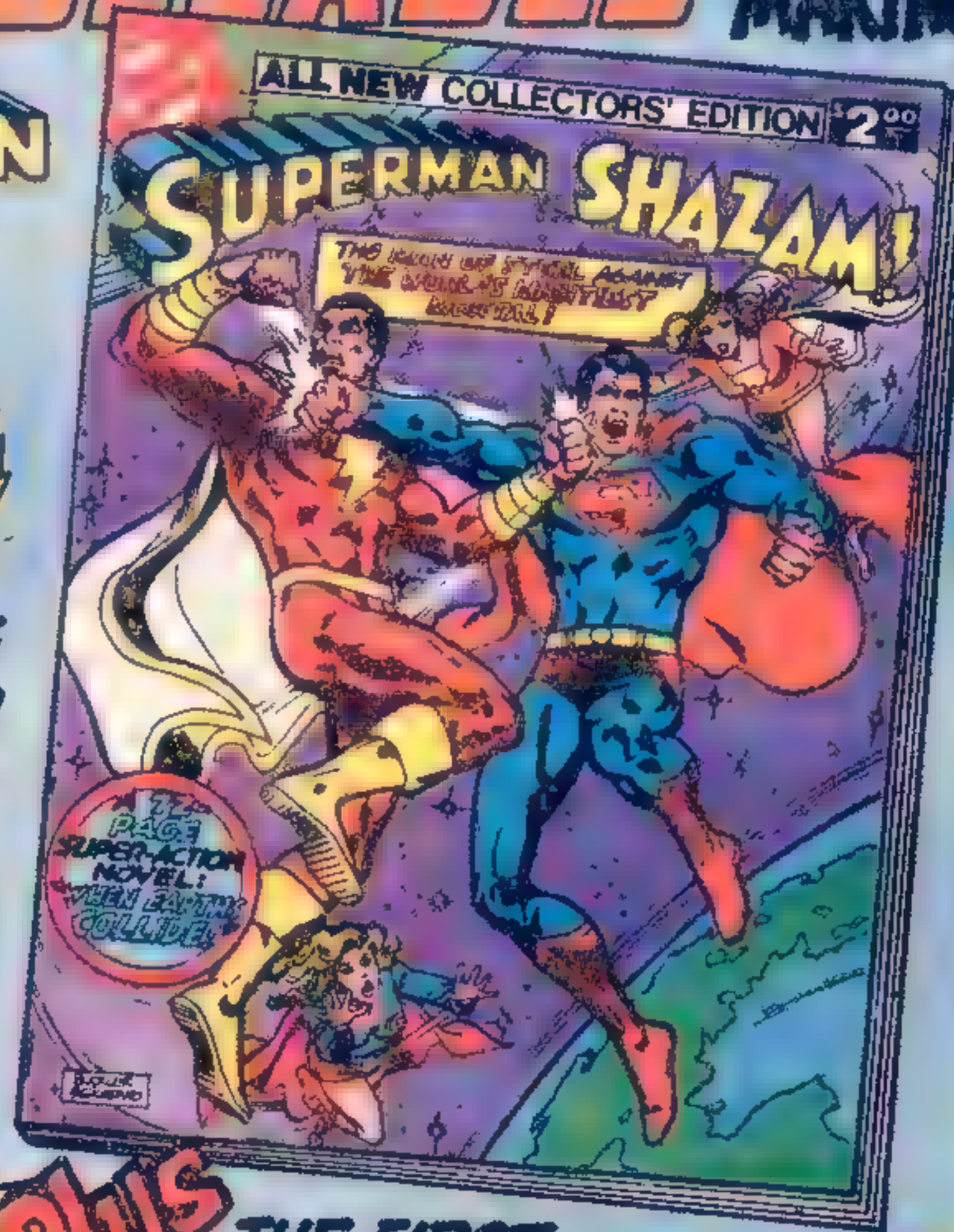

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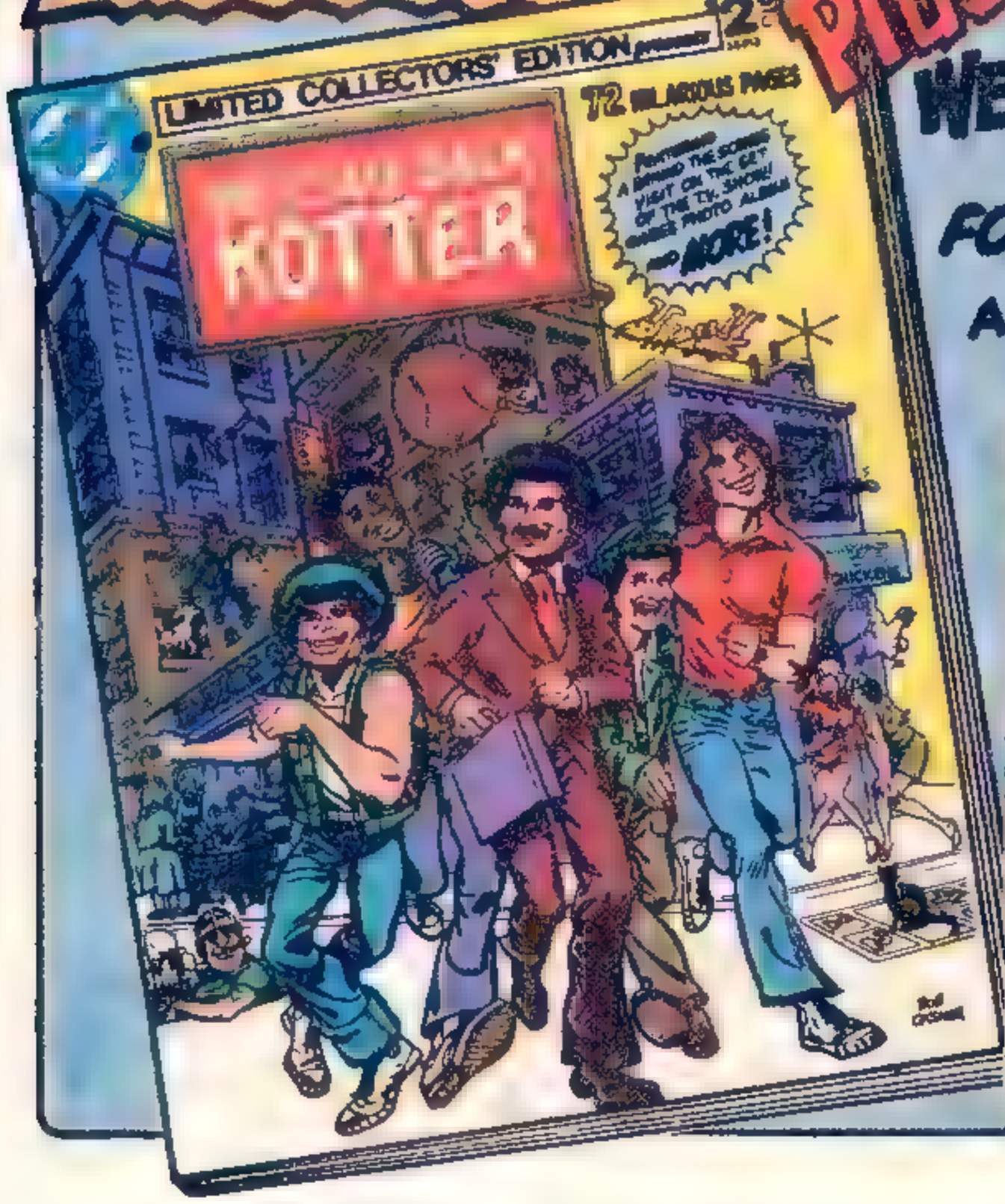

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CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE FIRST WEEK IN MAY

mysterious messages to the META-ZONE

L-908

c/o DC COMICS, INC., 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

Dear Editor,

I have just latched onto **SHADE—THE CHANGING MAN #4** and I can't praise the mag enough! I collect many comics, but this is the first DC Comic I've ever bought. When I saw **SHADE #1** on the stands, I glanced through it. Then I glanced through **#2**, then **#3**. It just kept getting better and better!

I've always enjoyed Steve Ditko's work and I believe that he **makes** the book, so please don't change. Shade's powers, personality and environment are supremely interesting and different. The story-line is perfect as it is, holding my attention every second.

I am definitely getting back issues #1-3! Keep it coming!

Ray D. Smith
363 Fox Chapel Rd.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15238

Welcome to the ranks of DC, Ray! It's good to have you aboard! We feel that a successful continuing comic is one where the reader can enjoy a single issue, out of context. A hit comic is one that makes the reader anxious for future issues, and a smash hit is one that compels the readers to want to go and seek out past issues! It should be clear (dispite what was erroneously reported in MEDIA SCENE), what your letter says about SHADE!—JCH

* * * * *

Dear Editor,

When I bought **SHADE—THE CHANGING MAN #1**, I thought he would be just another hero. But he isn't! The story and artwork are excellent. However, I would like to ask you (if you don't mind) 4 questions:

1. If **Shade** proves his innocence, will his comic still be published?
2. If **Shade** proves his innocence and his comic is still published, what will his adventures be about? Crime-fighting N-agents, etc.?
3. If **Shade** proves his innocence, will Meluu marry him?
4. Will he be published monthly or bi-monthly?

John Dwyer
209 Lorne St.
Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada B1P 4H7

It was probably before your time, John, but we remember the old television show entitled "The Fugitive." The show's premise was having a doctor chase around the country for a one-armed man who had commited the murder for which the doctor had been convicted. When the one-armed man was found, the series ended.

No such problem confronts SHADE. Once he proves that he is not a murderer, there are still plenty of adventures ahead of him. And don't worry—we will not make SHADE the "just another hero" you feared earlier.

Now that MELUU knows of SHADE'S innocence, who knows? Perhaps a wedding is in THE CHANGING MAN'S future! And that's a change that wouldn't be caused by the M-Vest!—JCH

* * * * * *

Dear Editor,

A letter in **SHADE 4** mentioned that it took the writer a week before expressing his opinions on the series and you replied you weren't happy it took that long. Well, you're going to **hate** me! After only one reading of **SHADE 1** I knew I had to write and here I am finally, after four issues!

I guess I waited because I figured everyone else would be raving about **SHADE** and what was one more letter? But, truth to tell, a sampling of my fellow fans does not show the same enthusiasm I feel for Ditko's latest creation, and I think I know why. While those fans are crying about the lack of depth in comics and the preponderance of stereotypes and "interchangeable heroes", they are complaining at the same time that **SHADE** is too complex and too ambitious. Yes! SHADE is complex. As Greg Stamey said in the same letter column "the concepts of the ZONES is fascinating and original, because most writers could have written Meta in just as some alien planet." Ditko has chosen to create a world, a cosmos, in short a mythology, and to absorb and live within that newly-defined structure requires work on the part of the reader. One of the most frequent comments I hear is "I had to read it a couple of times to really appreciate what was going on." But that's not a bad thing. How many of us have re-read **The Lord of the Rings** only to have our enjoyment of it increased each time? On your first reading did you understand what was going on after the first 40 pages?

SHADE requires reading and re-reading. I still love to go back over the flashback in number **3**, examining each time the panel border faces which tell a story all their own. Come on people, give SHADE a chance to grow. It takes more than a Kirby-mentality to appreciate the world of Rac Shade, but it's more than worth the effort.

Mike Callahan
1409 Summit St.
202, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15221

We're the first to admit the uniqueness of SHADE, and we quickly add that we're awfully proud of that fact. It is interesting to note that your fellow Pittburghian Ray Smith didn't "discover" SHADE until #4, and you waited until that number to let your feelings known. Perhaps if the two of you had gotten together earlier, we would have had two SHADE fans from the very beginning!

And now that you've both appeared on this page, we're betting you'll never be lonely when searching for someone with whom to laude SHADE—THE CHANGING MAN!—JCH

* * * * *

Get out of your boring ZONE—take a trip through oure and write to us about what you think at: MYSTERIOUS MESSAGES TO THE META-ALONE, DC Comics Inc., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, New York 10019.

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VOLUME 78 ISSUE 10 WEEK OF MARCH 6th, 1978 BOB ROZAKIS: EDITOR ANTHONY TOLLIN: PRODUCTION

HAWKMAN SOARS IN SHOWCASE!

CO-STARS WITH ADAM STRANGE *(SOMEWHERE IN DEEP SPACE)*—He's back! *Hawkman,* the fabled Winged Wonder swoops into his own three-issue *SHOWCASE* run this month! Joining the sky-borne soldier are his wife, *Hawkgirl,* and space adventurer *Adam Strange!* Together, the three heroes set out to avert a terrible war in space that threatens to destory the universe!

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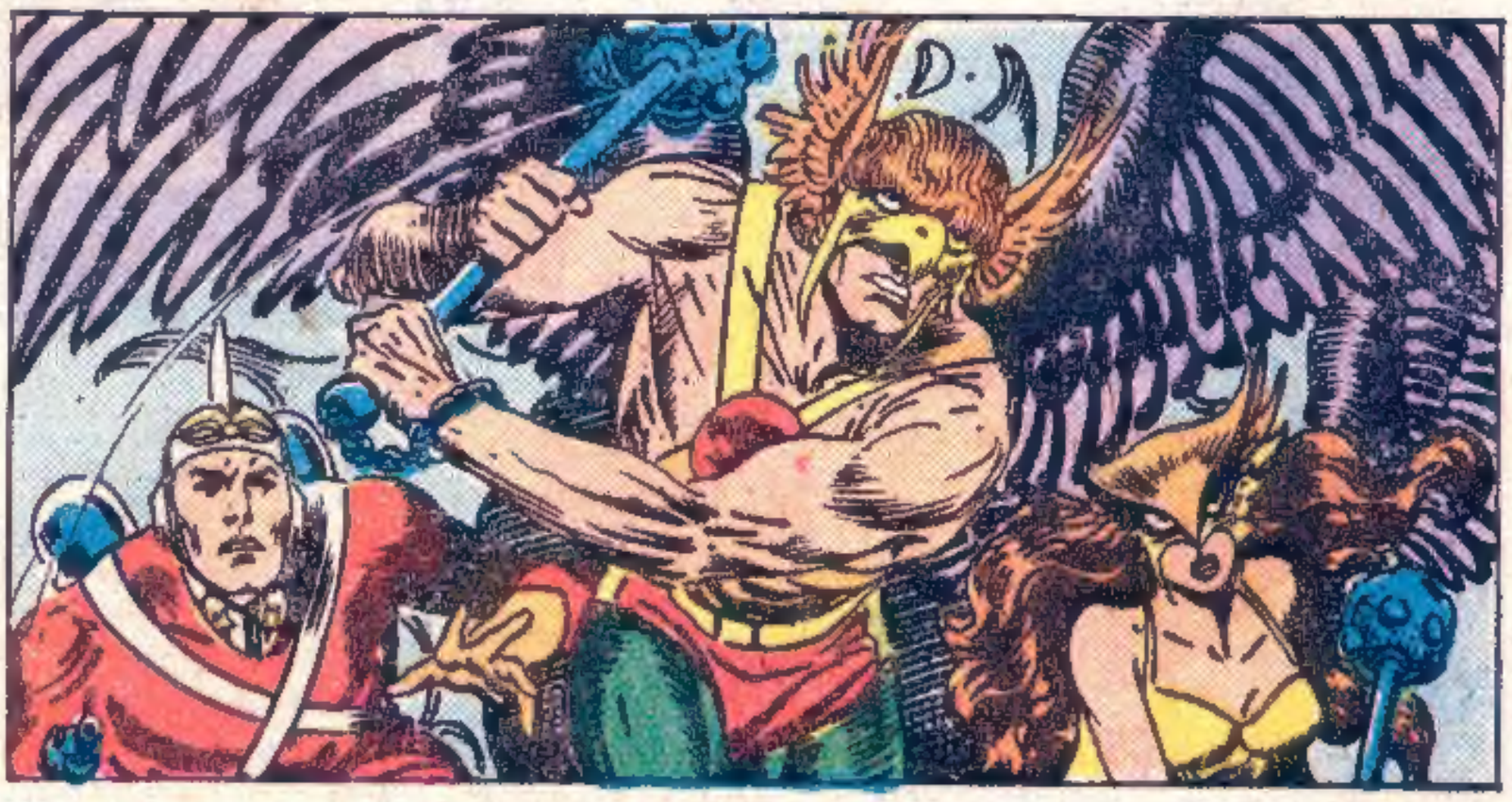
This star-spanning superhero saga also involves some of the most fantastic foes *Hawkman* and *Adam* have faced in their careers—the *Shadow-Thief,* the *Man-Hawks, Hyanthis,* and the ever-menacing *Kanjar Ro!*

Jack C. Harris scripts, Al Milgrom pencils, Murphy Anderson inks, Larry Hama edits, and Joe Kubert turns in the cover for *SHOWCASE #101,* on sale the week of March 13th! It's a block-busting epic no DC fan would *dare* miss!



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(New Genesis)—The source has been destroyed! And now, with their Mother Boxes useless, the *New Gods*—Orion, Jezebelle, Forager, and Metron—must face the fury of Darkseid on their own!

It's the beginning of the Third War of The Gods in *RETURN OF THE NEW GODS #18,* scripted by Gerry Conway, pencilled by Don Newton and inked by Dan Adkins.

Don't miss the first round of one of the most important battles the *New Gods* have ever fought when *RETURN OF THE NEW GODS* goes on sale the week of March 13th!

DIRECT CURRENTS

ON SALE WEEK OF MARCH 13th

AQUAMAN #62—A showdown between *Aquaman* and Mera "And the Walls Came Tumbling Down" in this Paul Kupperberg/Don Newton/Bob McLeod tale.

BATMAN FAMILY #18—It's into Gotham's sewers for *Batman* during "The Monstrosity Chase" by Denny O'Neil, Mike Golden and Dick Giordano. Then *Robin* discovers "The Fine Art of Murder" and *Batgirl* fights off an "Assault on the Pentagon" in a pair of stories by Bob Rozakis and Juan Ortiz. Plus: *The Huntress* has "A Choice of Destinies" (by Paul Levitz, Joe Staton and Bob Layton) and it's time for "Man-Bat No More" (by Rozakis, Danny Bulanadi and Romeo Tanghal).

CLAW #11—Our barbarian hero battles to the death with Occulus in "Epilogue" by David Michelinie, Keith Giffen and John Celardo.

G.I. COMBAT #208—A trio of *Haunted Tank* battle tales by Robert Kanigher and Sam Glanzman: "Sink That Tank", "Battle By the Book" and "Everyone's a Loser". Plus: "The Barbarian Bomb" and "The Seven-Layer Booby-Trap", a pair of *O.S.S.* tales by Evan Douglas and E.R. Cruz; "Ace Minus 1" by Douglas and Jerry Grandenetti; and "Star Bright, Star Fight" by Jan Laurie and Maurice Whitman.

HOUSE OF SECRETS #152—"Sister Witch" is by Jack C. Harris and Jess Jodloman and "Monkey See, Monkey Do" is by Jack Oleck and Ruben Yandoc.

AND ON SALE RIGHT NOW: BATMAN #300/FIRESTORM #3/THE FLASH #262/KAMANDI #57/SECRETS OF HAUNTED HOUSE #12/SHADE #7/SUPERMAN #324/WEIRD WAR TALES #64

ASK THE ANSWER MAN

Q: Will *Deadman* be getting his own magazine?—Bob Burros. *A:* No, but he'll have his own feature, by Len Wein and Jim Aparo, when *ADVENTURE COMICS* goes Dollar-Sized this summer.

Q: Who created Amazo?—David Shows. *A:* The android with the powers of the *Justice League* was created by Professor Ivo.

Q: Is there a Golden Age *Aquaman?*—Ricky Minto. *A:* Not that we know of, but it's something that bears looking into.

Q: How did the *Justice League* get together?—Joey Guillo. *A:* When it was thought Earth was being invaded by Martians, *Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, The Flash* and *Aquaman* joined forces to find out the real story . . . and met *J'onn J'onzz* for the first time.

Q: Are there differences in the origins of the Earth-One and Earth-Two *Supermen, Batmen, Robins* and *Wonder Women?*—Ken Loo. *A:* There are slight differences, but each pair have pretty much the same "roots"!

Q: Why not make a comic starring the *DC* staff and featuring *The Answer Man?*—John F. Kelley. *A:* I don't know . . . why not?

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